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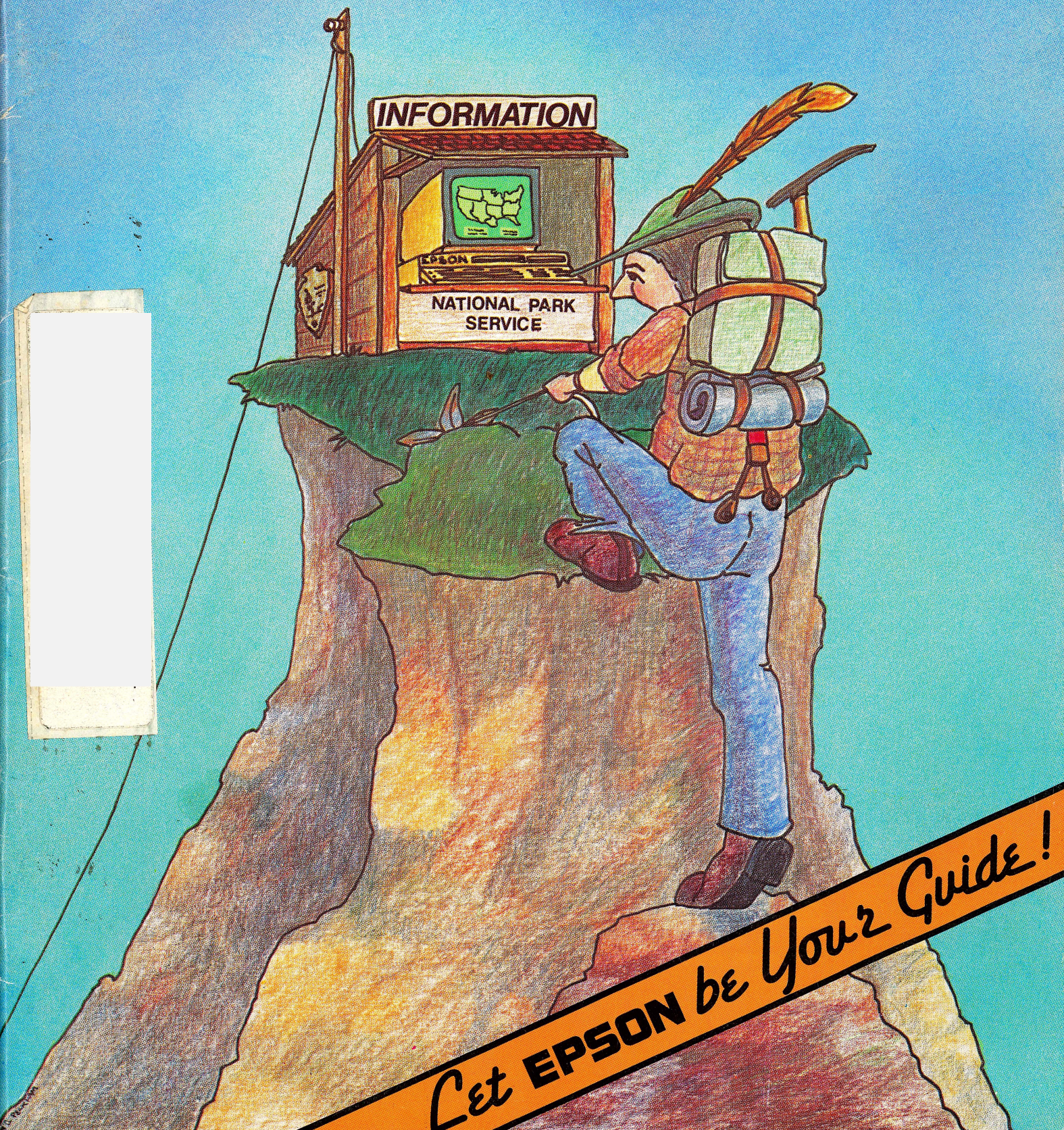
FEBRUARY 1985



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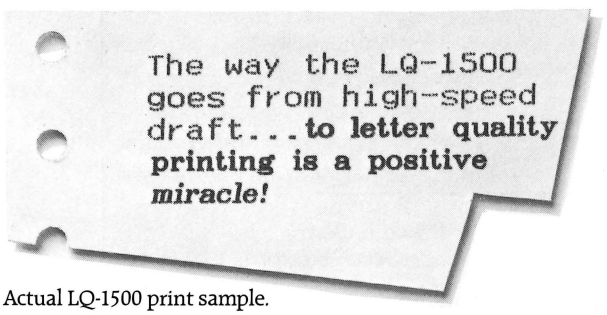

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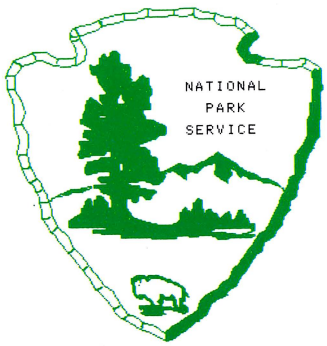

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Editorial

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This month you will find news from the Consumer Electronics Show held in Las Vegas in January (see News Notes), instructions on using CompuServe and logging into the Special Interest Group (SIG) for Epson users, and a feature on Epson and the National Park Service. We are pleased with the return of Ralph Ruh's Dis 'N Data column, he has been busy not only coordinating the EpsonNet BBS system, but also setting up an R.S.I. field Support BBS.

Next month we will outline the National Epson America Users Conference called **InterAct 1985**. This conference will be a video-teleconference to ten major cities. It is being scheduled for early spring.

Letters to Editor

Dear Editor,

Finally, a magazine devoted to the Epson system. I stopped reading news-stand computer mags because they are mostly devoted to Apple's, IBM's or game-playing home-computers, with nary a mention of Epson.

I'd like to learn as much as possible about my Epson system, and neither the manufacturer nor the dealer (with whom I am very satisfied) has all the answers. I hope you have a "trouble-shooting" or "problem solving" column devoted to Epson systems. If not, perhaps you'll consider one?

Thank you for your consideration.

Robert J. Banner
Lakehurst, NJ

Dear Editor,

The following may be of interest for the EpsonConnection. The Signalman Mk XII Modem is an inexpensive Hayes SmartModem clone, that runs reasonably well on the QX-10. The modem has no internal speaker, but 4 external lights (HS - CD - SD /RD - MR) making operation relatively easy to follow.

The modem will NOT work under Valdocs Mail, but will work under TPM, supporting any of the MDM7xx programs.

There are no external switches to set. The modem plugs (cable included) into the RS232 port, and you're off.

One Note: When using the LIBRARY (CAL) function on MDM7xx programs, the modem will immediately come back with a "No answer. Redial?" response. Immediately return a "No" (N), then a T and a Carriage Return. The modem will connect you to whomever you dialed, if anyone (or machine) is there to answer.

Best,

Bill Nagler, M.D.
Southfield, MI

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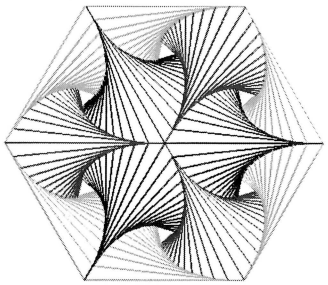

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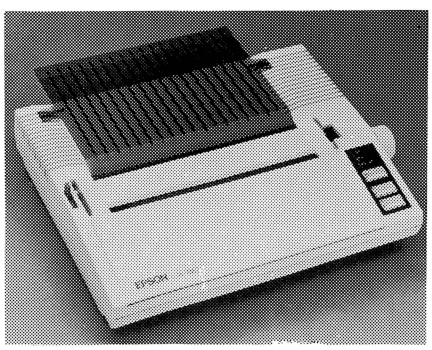
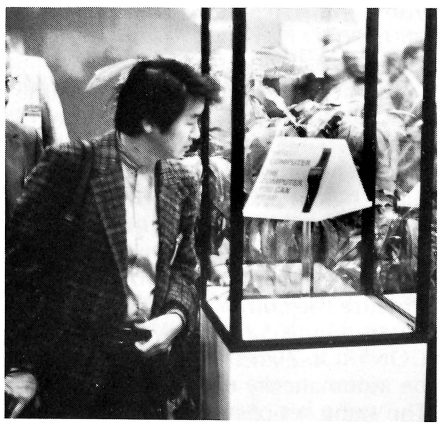
News Notes

There were some new products introduced at the Consumer Electronics Show held in January. Epson introduced two new dot matrix printers: the Spectrum™ LX-80 printer, and a HomeWriter. These two printers are new low price ones for under $350. The LX-80 is an 80-column printer operating at 100 cps in draft mode, and 16 cps in near letter quality mode. It has the capability of producing more than 160 typestyles through a top panel SelecType, and near letter or draft quality can be selected through the dipswitches. Parallel interface, friction feed, 1K buffer, SelecType and one year warranty are standard items. Options include a 32 K buffer board, tractor and cut sheet feeder. The HomeWriter 10™ has been introduced for use with popular home computers such as: Commodore 64™, Atari 800XL™, IBM PCjr™ and Apple IIc™. The printers will be connected to the computers with a new plug-in Printer Interface Cartridge (PIC). The retail pricing is expected to be around $269. The HomeWriter specs are similar to those of the Spectrum LX-80. The "multi-unit," for the Geneva PX-8 was also displayed. This unit combines a direct-connect modem and a 64K RAM disk in an attachable wedge shaped unit. See RX for PX for more details.



Another item of interest was the RC-20 Epson wrist computer. The RC-20 was presented as a peek at a pre-release product, and is not being released in this country at this time.



The RC-20 is a Z80 compatible CMOS processor, with 8K ROM, 2K RAM, and has a 4 line by 7 character display. Four programs are built into ROM: Schedule, Calc, "World Time," and a data base. The RC-20 has a RS-232C port for communicating with other computers. A LOAD MODE function permits downloading of machine language programs from a host computer to the RC-20. Seiko has already introduced a similar "wrist computer" with a detachable keyboard, and modem. This is obviously an item to watch.

Titan is now processing user exchanges to upgrade their QXPC boards. There are three methods of exchange available. In all cases you MUST receive an RMA number from Titan. The three options are:
1- Exchange the QXPC1 board for the QXPC2 for $39. plus shipping and handling. 2- Upgrade your board in memory while exchanging it.
3- Upgrades for non-registered owners will be available for $149.50. GW BASIC and the QX RAM disk programs are expected to be available this month.

EPSON INTERACT '85 — is a National Epson Users Conference being coordinated and planned by Epson America. It is scheduled for this Spring, and will include a Video Teleconference format, linking users in 10 cities. The cities selected are: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit, Boston, New York, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Tampa, Washington D.C. and Dallas. The conference will include a video feed from Los Angeles, hands-on workshops, questions & answer sessions and talks by special speakers. There will be a price for the conferences which will include lunch and handout materials for all the classes. More information will be available next month.

"photos by Surya Paul Ram at C.E.S."

Anti-glare screens for the QX can not only keep your screen clean, and free from glare from windows and light, but also can look good. A tip from an RSI staff member was that the Radio Shack (Catalog #26-511) runs around $11, and fits perfectly.

■

DIS N' DATA

by Ralph Ruh

This issue I will review some of the subjects covered in past articles for the benefit of new users and subscribers of the EpsonConnection Magazine. We will also be covering a couple of programs not mentioned previously. Lets begin with a new subject. There is a nifty TPM-II utility called @.SYS, that is actually a TPM submit utility, which allows you to enter a series of commands to be performed by TPM in one step. You may either create these commands interactively or place them in a .SUB file created by a text editor or word processor which can be processed automatically anytime you call the .SUB file using @.SYS. Let's look at an example of this utility. When you execute this program simply type '@' and a carriage return. You will then be presented with the following interactive command prompts:

```
TPM Submit Utility, Version 1.06
as of 10/25/82
To Exit, type CONTROL-Z
To ABORT, type CONTROL-C
To CANCEL a line, type
CONTROL-U
To RESTART (cancel all lines),
type CONTROL-E

@
```

The '@' symbol is your command line where you enter the programs or utilities that you want to run. Let's assume that you want to move all your .BAS files from drive A to drive B for backup. To accomplish this you would type the following command at the '@' prompt:

```
@ ZPIP B:A:*.BAS<CR>
```

The above command tells @.SYS that you want to run ZPIP.SYS and transfer all the basic files with the extension .BAS from drive A to drive B. The '*' is a wildcard that represents all filenames on drive A. (You could also be selective in your transfer by specifying only .BAS files that begin with the letter 'A', i.e. A*.BAS. Now let's say you want to run an MBASIC program during the same operation. To do this simply enter another command line as follows:

```
@ ZPIP B:A:*.BAS<CR>
@ MBASIC FILENAME<CR>
@
```

The above example copies all .BAS files from drive A to drive B, then loads MBASIC and your program represented by FILENAME, executes the program and allows you to use the program. When you finish running the basic program you will be returned to the TPM prompt. To execute the commands you have entered in @.SYS simply strike CONTROL-Z and the commands will be automatically executed for you. The same set of commands may be placed into a .SUB file for re-use without entering them all over with the aid of your text editor in the non-document mode. To do this create a file with whatever filename you want, with an extension .SUB containing the commands to be executed. Then call the .SUB file for automatic execution as follows:

```
@ FILENAME<CR>
```

This simple submit utility can provide freedom and flexibility in your use of TPM. You may place as many commands as you wish in the .SUB file, then leave your computer to do the work for you automatically.

Now let's examine another utility that is useful to those who regularly call Bulletin Board systems. There are two library utility programs available which allow you to file your programs away in a neat and easy to find location. Many BBS systems use this method of putting related programs into a single package for ease of downloading. The first is LU300.COM written by Gary P. Novosielski. You will recognize these files by their extension, .LBR. I prefer to think of .LBR files as a 'filing cabinet' of related software. The other library program is called NULU.COM and performs all the functions of LU300.COM plus many additional functions. There is a complete documentation file available that will provide you with all the information needed to fully understand these excellent programs, therefore I won't go into great detail on their uses and commands. You will need either of these programs to extract the 'members' from the .LBR files that you have downloaded. Let's use an

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example .LBR file called GAMES.LBR. First make sure that EITHER LU.COM or NULU.COM plus GAMES.LBR are on the same drive and user area that you are logged into, for the sake of ease of use. Now, run LU by typing LU at the 'A' prompt. You will be presented with the following logon sequence if you are using LU.COM:

```
Library Utility Ver:3.XX 83-08-16
1983
-? O/A:<
```

The ? indicates that the program is in the command state and awaiting a command from you to get started. You must first open the library and bring it into memory. To do this simply type -O (for open) and hit a RETURN. Each command for the LU program requires you to put a '-' in front of it. Now type in 'GAMES' on the next line and hit another RETURN. You how have the library in memory ready to proceed. If you wish to look at what is in the library, issue the list command 'L' and another RETURN. Now it's time to extract all the files from the library and place them outside the library on disk so you can use them. To do this you must make sure that there is enough space left on the disk to hold the programs. There must be available space, equal to the size of the original .LBR file you are working on. Now issue the command to extract library members, '-E':

```
-O O/A:<-E <CR>
```

Let's remove all the programs from the library and place them on the default drive which is the A drive in this example.

```
-E O/A:<*.* <CR>
```

The asterisk is a wild card and tells LU to remove all members and place them on the default drive. You could have put them on the B drive by placing a drive specifier in front of the asterisks, i.e., B:*.*. Now, sit back and watch as the program goes to work and extracts all the files or programs for you. When the program is finished, just hit a carriage return and the current library will be closed and you will be returned to the operating system.

This was just a brief example of the use of these programs, space does not permit detailed discussion of each of the available commands. NULU.COM offers the user additional power, in that it will also UNSQUEEZE library members during the extracting process, which saves you this additional step. NULU.COM is also menu driven, which makes the use of the program much simpler. No matter which program you use, I again urge you to thoroughly go over the documentation.

Let's move on now to two CP/M utilities that you may find useful. These are CPMPOWER and NI. CPMPOWER is a compact and useful utility that combines all the standard CP/M transient programs such as; PIP, STAT, REN, and many more into one program. To execute, just type CPMPOWER and it loads into memory, ready for use at anytime. It is menu driven and easy to use. The program is designed to run under CP/M, however I have used it with TPM as well. The features of this program are helpful to those of you who own the PX-8 lap computer, since it can replace the CP/M utilities you have on ROM, and make room to put another of your ROM chips in its place. The program only uses 6k of disk space, therefore it will fit nicely onto your RAM DISK and still leave enough room for other programs.

The last program, NI.COM is a powerful directory utility which will give you added power when using CP/M. A previously unknown built in HELP menu can be checked out by typing NI /H <CR>. You will be presented with a menu of options that will allow you to look at the directory of any user area, change screen width of display and a few other items that are self explanatory. Now you won't have to keep a copy of your directory program in every user area that you have programs.

I would like to close the column with a few remarks about the EpsonNet Network sysops. The network has grown considerably over the last year and a half thanks to the fine efforts of all the volunteer sysops who have joined our ranks. My personal thanks go out to each and every one of you fellow SYSOPS and wish you a very happy and prosperous new year. Special thanks go to Allen Howell and Steve Brown who have worked hard to provide new system utilities and upgrades to the system. We are all looking forward to continuing to offer the best BBS service to Epson owners throughout the new year ahead. If anyone has special requests for particular areas you would like to see covered in Dis-N-Data, please send a note to:

Ralph Ruh
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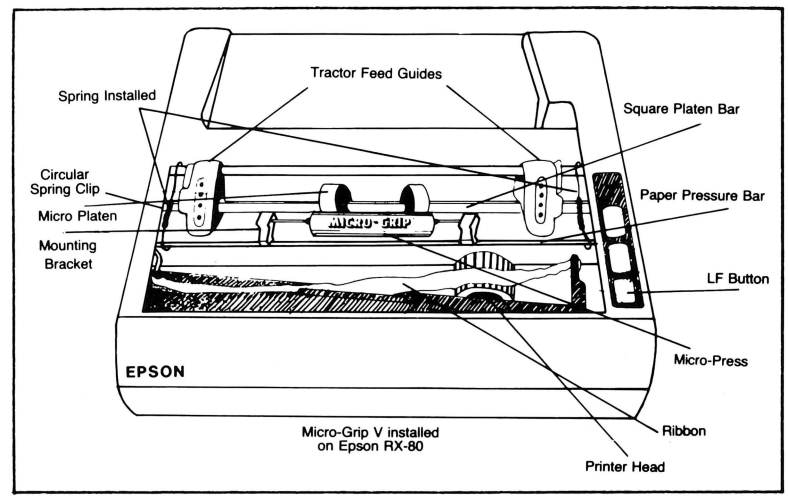

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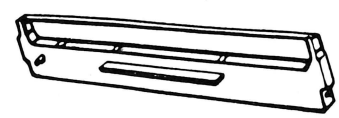

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A LINE EDIT R UTILITY

by Allen Howell

SPEC SPOT

Product: LEDIT
Type: Line Editor Utility
Computer: QX-10
Operating System: CP/M B

Has there ever been a time when you wanted to write just a short note on your computer, but didn't because Valdocs would have taken longer to load than to write the note? Or have you ever wanted to try your hand at creating .SUB files for the CP/M submit utility, but found that the ED.COM that came with CP/M was a hostile environment? I found both the above cases to be true in my situation, so, some months ago I created this line editor written in MBASIC.

I used an editor similar to this one when I was working on a Harris 500 computer in the Air Force, and since it was a simple and straight forward line editor, it has inspired me to write this one.

The five basic LEDIT commands are:

1) IN - Enter insert mode
2) DE - Delete line
3) RP - Replace line
4) CH - Change line
5) UP - Update file and exit program

There are several more available and they are described in the on-line HELP.

I have drastically improved this version from the original by adding a status line at the bottom of the screen. It is much easier to use now (especially in the CH mode) since you can tell what mode you are in.

If you have an MBASIC compiler, you can compile this program and it will run much faster, especially when working with large files when you are using the IN and DE commands.

Keep in mind that this editor will only work correctly in CP/M.

This program is available on this month's "Disk of The Month", or if you have a modem, you may download it from our RBBS. Happy key-plinking!

```
10 REM ***** LEDIT (LINE EDITOR) *****
20 REM    PROGRAM BY: ALLEN E. HOWELL
30 REM
40 REM ***** INITIALIZATION *****
50 WIDTH 255
60 DEF FN RC$(R,C)=CHR$(27)+CHR$(41)+CHR
$(27)+CHR$(61)+CHR$(R+31)+CHR$(C+31)
70 LF$=CHR$(13)+CHR$(11):BR$=CHR$(27)+CH
R$(40)
80 ON ERROR GOTO 1000
90 PRINT:PRINT"LEDIT - PROGRAM BY ALLEN
HOWELL"
100 PRINT"TYPE 'HELP' IN COMMAND MODE FO
R HELP."
110 DIM A$(500)
120 DIM TEMP$(255)
130 PRINT
140 LINE INPUT"FILE TO EDIT:";FI$
150 IF FI$="HELP" THEN PRINT"ENTER THE N
AME OF THE FILE TO EDIT!":GOTO 140
160 OPEN"I",1,FI$
170 FOR X=1 TO 500
180 IF EOF(1) THEN 220
190 PRINT"READING LINE";X;CHR$(13);
200 LINE INPUT#1,A$(X)
210 NEXT X
220 MAX=X-1
230 PRINT
240 PRINT FNRC$(25,1);FI$:PRINT FNRC$(25
,20);"MODE:"
250 GOTO 280
260 MAX=0:GOTO 240
270 REM ***** INPUT COMMAND ROUTINE ****
*
280 PRINT FNRC$(25,25);"COMMAND
              ":PRINT FNRC$(24,1);BR$;">"
;:LINE INPUT C$
290 L=LEN(C$)
300 IF C$="HELP" OR C$="help" THEN 1830
310 IF C$="ABORT" OR C$="abort" THEN 690
320 IF C$="ABORT NEW" OR C$="abort new"
THEN CLOSE 1:GOTO 140
330 IF C$="RESTART" OR C$="restart" THEN
 CLOSE 1:GOTO 160
340 IF C$="UP" OR C$="up" THEN 620
350 IF C$="LINES" OR C$="lines" THEN PRI
NT:PRINT"LINES IN FILE: ";MAX:PRINT:GOTO
 280
360 C2$=LEFT$(C$,2)
370 FOR I=1 TO L
380 IF MID$(C$,I,1)="-" THEN 430
390 NEXT I
400 S=VAL(MID$(C$,3,L))
410 F=S
420 GOTO 450
430 S=VAL(MID$(C$,4,I-1))
440 F=VAL(MID$(C$,I+1,L))
450 IF C$="LI" OR C$="li" THEN 550
460 IF (C2$="IN" OR C2$="in") AND F=0 TH
EN 780
470 IF F=0 THEN PRINT CHR$(7):PRINT"Erro
r: Invalid Format.":GOTO 280
480 IF S>MAX OR F>MAX THEN PRINT CHR$(7)
;"Error: Past EOF.":GOTO 280
490 IF C2$="LI" OR C2$="li" THEN 550
500 IF C2$="RP" OR C2$="rp" THEN 720
510 IF C2$="IN" OR C2$="in" THEN 780
520 IF C2$="DE" OR C2$="de" THEN 890
530 IF C2$="CH" OR C2$="ch" THEN 1030
540 PRINT CHR$(7);"Error: Invalid comman
d.":GOTO 280
550 REM ***** LIST ROUTINE *****
560 PRINT FNRC$(25,25);"LIST      ":PRINT
 FNRC$(24,1);BR$;
570 IF L=2 THEN S=1:F=MAX
580 FOR P=S TO F
590 PRINT P;A$(P)
600 NEXT P
```

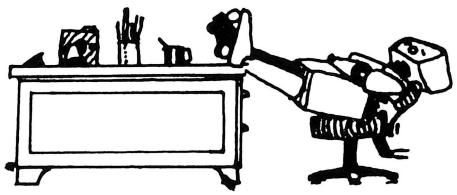
```
610 GOTO 280
620 REM ***** UPDATE FILE AND END PROGRA
M *****
630 PRINT FNRC$(25,25);"UPDATING"
640 CLOSE 1
650 OPEN"O",1,FI$
660 FOR X=1 TO MAX
670 PRINT#1,A$(X)
680 NEXT X
690 CLOSE 1
700 PRINT FNRC$(25,1);STRING$(60,32):PRI
NT FNRC$(24,1);BR$;
710 SYSTEM
720 REM **** REPLACE LINE *****
730 PRINT FNRC$(25,25);"REPLACE ":PRINT
FNRC$(24,1);BR$;
740 IF L=2 THEN PRINT CHR$(7);"Error: Li
ne # not present.":GOTO 280
750 PRINT A$(F)
760 LINE INPUT A$(F)
770 GOTO 280
780 REM ***** INSERT NEW LINES *****
790 PRINT FNRC$(25,25);"INSERT  ":PRINT
FNRC$(24,1);BR$;
800 LINE INPUT":";I$
810 IF I$="$$$" THEN 280
820 FOR X=MAX TO F+1 STEP -1
830 A$(X+1)=A$(X)
840 NEXT X
850 A$(F+1)=I$
860 MAX=MAX+1
870 F=F+1
880 GOTO 800
890 REM ***** DELETE LINES *****
900 PRINT FNRC$(25,25);"DELETING   "
910 T=(F+1)-S
920 FOR Z=1 TO T
930 FOR D=S TO MAX
940 A$(D)=A$(D+1)
950 NEXT D
960 MAX=MAX-1
970 NEXT Z
980 GOTO 280
990 STOP
1000 REM ***** ERROR TRAPPING ROUTINES *
****
1010 IF ERR=53 AND ERL=160 THEN CLOSE:OP
EN"O",1,FI$:PRINT:PRINT"NEW FILE":PRINT:
RESUME 260
1020 PRINT"ERROR #";ERR;"IN LINE";ERL;".
":STOP
1030 REM ***** EDIT LINE *****
1040 IF LEN(A$(F))>79 THEN PRINT"SORRY -
 'CH' DOES NOT SUPPORT LINES GREATER THA
T 79 CHARACTERS.":PRINT"USE 'RP' COMMAND
.":GOTO 280
1050 PRINT FNRC$(25,25);"CHANGE     SUB-
MODE:MOVE":PRINT FNRC$(24,1);BR$;
1060 FOR X=1 TO LEN(A$(F))
1070 TEMP$(X)=MID$(A$(F),X,1)
1080 PRINT TEMP$(X);
1090 NEXT X
1100 PRINT CHR$(11)
1110 P=1
1120 M=LEN(A$(F))
1130 REM ***** INPUT COMMAND *****
1140 PRINT FNRC$(25,45);"MOVE       ":PR
INT FNRC$(24,P);BR$;
1150 Z$=INKEY$:IF Z$="" THEN 1150
1160 Z=ASC(Z$)
1170 IF Z=12 THEN P=P+1
1180 IF Z=12 AND P>M THEN P=M:PRINT CHR$
(7);:GOTO 1130
1190 IF Z=12 THEN PRINT TEMP$(P-1);:GOTO
 1130
1200 IF Z=8 THEN P=P-1
1210 IF Z=8 AND P<1 THEN P=1:PRINT CHR$(
7);:GOTO 1130
1220 IF Z=8 THEN PRINT CHR$(8);:GOTO 113
0
1230 IF Z$="R" OR Z$="r" THEN 1300
1240 IF Z=27 THEN 1390
1250 IF Z=13 THEN GOTO 1130
1260 IF Z$="D" OR Z$="d" THEN 1450
1270 IF Z$="I" OR Z$="i" THEN 1630
1280 PRINT CHR$(7);
1290 GOTO 1130
1300 REM ***** REPLACE MODE *****
1310 PRINT FNRC$(25,45);"REPLACE      "
:PRINT FNRC$(24,P);BR$;
1320 Z$=INKEY$:IF Z$="" THEN 1320
1330 Z=ASC(Z$):IF Z=27 THEN 1130
1340 IF Z=13 THEN 1320
1350 TEMP$(P)=Z$
1360 P=P+1:IF P>M+1 THEN P=P-1:PRINT CHR
$(7);:GOTO 1320
1370 PRINT Z$;
1380 GOTO 1320
1390 REM ***** EXIT CHANGE MODE *****
1400 A$(F)=""
1410 FOR X=1 TO M
1420 A$(F)=A$(F)+TEMP$(X)
1430 NEXT X
1440 PRINT:GOTO 280
1450 REM ***** DELETE CHARACTER *****
1460 PRINT FNRC$(25,45);"DELETE    ":PRI
NT FNRC$(24,P);BR$;
1470 IF P=0 THEN 1130
1480 FOR D=P TO M
1490 TEMP$(D)=TEMP$(D+1)
1500 NEXT D
1510 M=M-1
1520 PRINT LF$
1530 FOR X=1 TO M
1540 PRINT TEMP$(X);
1550 NEXT X
1560 PRINT" ";
1570 PRINT LF$
1580 IF P>M THEN P=M
1590 FOR X=1 TO P-1
1600 PRINT TEMP$(X);
1610 NEXT X
1620 GOTO 1130
1630 REM ***** INSERT MODE *****
1640 PRINT FNRC$(25,45);"INSERT  ":PRINT
 FNRC$(24,P);BR$;
1650 Z$=INKEY$:IF Z$="" THEN 1650
1660 Z=ASC(Z$):IF Z=27 GOTO 1130
1670 FOR X=M TO P STEP -1
1680 TEMP$(X+1)=TEMP$(X)
1690 NEXT X
1700 TEMP$(P)=Z$
1710 PRINT LF$
1720 M=M+1
1730 FOR X=1 TO M
1740 PRINT TEMP$(X);
1750 NEXT X
1760 PRINT LF$
1770 P=P+1
1780 FOR X=1 TO P-1
1790 PRINT TEMP$(X);
1800 NEXT X
1810 GOTO 1650
1820 STOP
1830 REM ***** NEED HELP?? *****
1840 PRINT
1850 PRINT"MAX. LINES THIS EDITOR CAN HA
NDLE: 500"
1860 PRINT
1870 PRINT"HELP      - DISPLAYS THIS INF
O
1880 PRINT"ABORT     - EXITS LEDIT WITH
```

```
NO CHANGES TO FILE
1890 PRINT"ABORT NEW - RESTARTS LEDIT WI
TH NO CHANGES TO FILE
1900 PRINT"UP         - UPDATES FILE AND
EXITS LEDIT
1910 PRINT"LI         - LIST FILE
1920 PRINT"LI n-n     - LIST LINES n THRO
UGH n
1930 PRINT"RP n       - REPLACE LINE n
1940 PRINT"DE n-n     - DELETES LINES n T
HROUGH n
1950 PRINT
1960 PRINT"IN n       - INSERT TEXT AFTER
 LINE n
1970 PRINT" $$$       - EXIT INSERT MODE
1980 PRINT
1990 PRINT"CH n       - CHANGE LINE n
```

```
2000 PRINT" R         - REPLACE MODE (NO
RETURN). USE <ESC> TO EXIT.
2010 PRINT" I         - INSERT MODE (NO R
ETURN). USE <ESC> TO EXIT.
2020 PRINT" D         - DELETE CHARACTER
AT CURSOR POSITION.
2030 PRINT" <ESC>     - EXIT CH COMMAND.
2040 PRINT"USE THE LEFT & RIGHT ARROW KE
YS TO MANUEVER WITHIN LINE.
2050 PRINT"<ESC> IS THE <MAR REL> ON QX-
10
2060 PRINT
2070 GOTO 280
```

■

Valbot Verbiage



BUG: Intercom system used in the Watergate complex.

CHIP: 1. One California Highway Patrolman 2. Used in computers, they come in four flavors: silicon, potato, chocolate and buffalo.

CRASH: Normal termination of a program.

CONCATENATION: A convention of all the nation's kittycats.

DATA: An Italian word, meaning a single piece of information, as in "look at disa and data".

DEBUG: Raid sprayed on the keyboard.

DIP: Inventor of a famous switch.

DISK DRIVE: A motor for a Frisbee.

DISK PACK: Six cans of fluid, used by disk drive technicians to improve their thinking.

DUMP: Spouse's term for area around the computer.

EXECUTION: What your computer did to your program, also known as murder.

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Partnership in Pride

by Franc LaClair

Imagine for a moment that you are a foreign visitor in United States for a brief few weeks stay, for a very special event, the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Much of your life has been devoted to working long and hard to prepare for this "trip of a lifetime," either as a trainer, coach, or participant in the grueling challenge of competition. Maybe you are an enthusiastic foreign national cheering on the "home team."You don't want to waste one minute of your precious time. Where will you go, what will you see, how will you get there, what will you do once you get where you want to go, and how will you ever understand and "get a feel" for the way Americans live, given the language barrier? What better way to experience both the culture and the natural beauty of "America" than through visiting some of the 336 national parks throughout the U.S. and Territories, of which 55 are located within two days drive from the Games?

The coordination of this project and welcoming of visitors to the United States during the Olympics fell upon the Department of the Interior and the National Parks Service under the direction of Mary Gibson, Park Olympic Coordinator for the National Parks Service, and Phil Holmes, a NPS cultural anthropologist and liaison to the Native American population in California. The tremendous task of compiling information on hundreds of national parks, legislation that formed each park, agencies responsible for administration of each park, and all the information and data a foreign visitor might find necessary, important, or helpful in traveling the various regions and states to the parks, begged for a "high-tech" solution.

The solution appeared through a partnership between Epson America and the National Parks Service in early 1984. Thousands of athletes and Olympic visitors gained reliable and accurate information on each of the 336 national parks through use of Epson QX-10 computer terminals installed at the three Olympic Villages, the ARCO Visitors Center in Los Angeles, and the 40,000 acre Santa Monica Mountains National Park in Woodland Hills, California, only 30 minutes drive from Los Angeles.

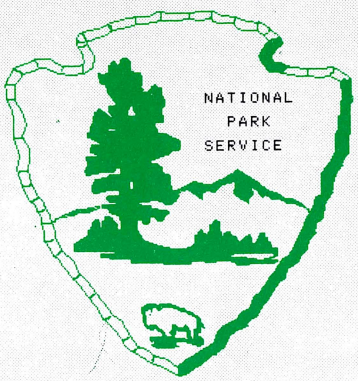
Epson America has come full circle in Olympic participation with this joint project with the National Parks Service for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Twenty years ago the Epson name was "born" through participation of the parent company Shinshu Seiki Co., Ltd., in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics with the introduction of the very successful EP-101 printer mechanism and later versions of the EP (son of EP = EPSON). The company also participated in a joint project with the California Highway Patrol during the 1984 Olympics, and over the past several years, with the Special Olympics founded by Eunice Shriver.

The Epson America, Inc./National Parks Service project was an essential guide for foreign visitors of the 1984 Summer Olympics to the 336 national parks and as an introduction to the beauty, culture, and language of the "States." The system involved the translation of over 400 documents written by Carol Shively of the NPS using PeachText on the QX-10, into four languages: English, French, German, and Spanish. Each of the documents contained specific information on each of the parks including size, location, facilities, weather, fees, activities, services, and information about local attractions and resources in the area of the park.

Each of the information center terminals were outside and exposed to the heat, dust, humidity, and the smog of Los Angeles in July. The monitor and central processing unit (CPU) sat on a cabinet with a hard disk and printer enclosed in the bottom portion. The keyboard was covered by a black plastic panel with only the numeric keypad exposed for entering responses to the prompts.

Every 30 seconds the screen cycled between the NPS emblem and a

Visit America's National Parks!



Visitez Les Parcs Nationaux Americains!

menu asking the user to select a language in which the information was to be displayed. After a screen menu of instructions appeared, a map of the U.S. appeared with 10 regions to be selected from using the 0-9 keys on the numeric keypad. Users were then prompted to select the state and park desired with the same commands on subsequent screens. A few of the states were combined or split according to the number or location of parks within the region or state. From the final choice, the screen displayed 4-5 pages of information about the particular park which could be printed out, by asking "Smokey" for assistance. The program also automatically recorded the number of inquiries in each language, and the parks selected to aid park management in future planning, and tracking use of the system.

Each of the 400 documents were translated by Robert Iskander of Berliz-Agnia and keyed into the appropriate language on the computers using font codes written by Steve Mohr of Epson. Steve originally developed code to handle Russian as well as the final four selected languages. He was working on an "Americanized version of Kangi, the Japanese business language" but found the 3000 characters necessary for adequate translation a little too much for the ASCII character set, and for the time constraints of the project.

Steve Mohr's team at Epson wrote most of the 500K program in "C," operating under TPM III. G-Driver and Matrix 31 were used for creating the foreign language and graphic fonts. EP-Draw, written by Jim Luttrell, also on the team, produced the superior map graphics designed by UCLA student and Epson programmer Larry Watanabe using a digitizing tablet and light pen. The NEC 7220 graphics chip of the QX-10 allowed for superior presentation of the graphics routines. Documentation and menu prompts were written by Mary Tavetin, also of Epson America.

The 3 megabytes of data were stored on a Comrex Comfiler (10 MB hard disk drive) connected to a standard Epson QX-10. An Epson FX-80 dot matrix printer was used to produce high quality hard copy printouts of the screen information. Each of the 8 terminals were exposed to blistering 105 degree temperatures during the Games, and two of the units were also exposed to the corrosive salt breezes from the Pacific Ocean only one quarter mile from the UCLA campus location.According to both Steve Mohr and Phil Holmes, the only problem encountered with the entire system was occasional overheating of the FX-80 printers enclosed in the cabinet of the display. Another example of Epson quality and reliability under extreme conditions.

The 1984 Olympic project was actually an extension of an ongoing relationship between Epson America and the Department of the Interior according to Mr. Bill Page, Director of Operations with the Computer Products Division of Epson America.

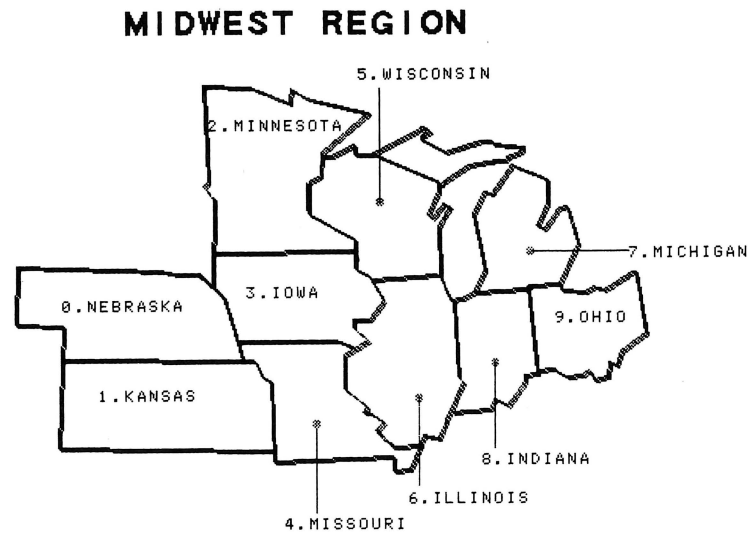
Representatives of the Department of the Interior met with Mr. Jack Whalen, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Epson America, Inc. in late 1983. During the meeting the DOI indicated a need to computerize a large conservation project in the Santa Monica Mountains National Park. After some negotiation Epson donated several QX-10 and HX-20 computers for park officers to use, quite literally in the "field."

Phil Holmes was involved in the initial project and was trained by Epson.He has become somewhat of a "computer guru" at the park and has used dBase II to produce financial and Ranger incident reports for the park. Phil coordinated the NPS side of the Olympic computer project, and was involved in all phases of the project including negotiating translation services with Berlitz, suggesting improvements to the exhibit design, and assisting in writing and editing the documents. Phil lauds the "open input" system of the National Parks Service which allows anyone in the NPS system to comment on or make suggestions on projects. This system allowed for his involvement with Epson America on this and other projects.

On the Epson side of the project, a four person team put together by Larry Holsopple, Manager of Technical Services, included primary systems programmer Steve Mohr, a senior Technical Services Support Specialist with Epson for two years, Jim Luttrell, author of EP-Draw, Larry Watanabe, and Mary Tavetin.

Probably the most impressive aspect of the project was the tremendous dedication, commitment, enthusiasm, and long hard months of work invested into the completion of the project by these two teams. The entire project was completed in less than four months from inception and initial discussion of the project, to final installation of the terminals at the Olympic Villages and visitors centers.

The project was running so "tight" that Steve Mohr states he "didn't have time to optimize," which would



have conserved space and made the program run faster. In fact, Phil Holmes and Bill Page confirmed that Steve actually spent three days programming around the clock at the Santa Monica Mountains National Park to complete the work. Says Phil, "they [Epson Technical Support Staff] really performed miracles for us."

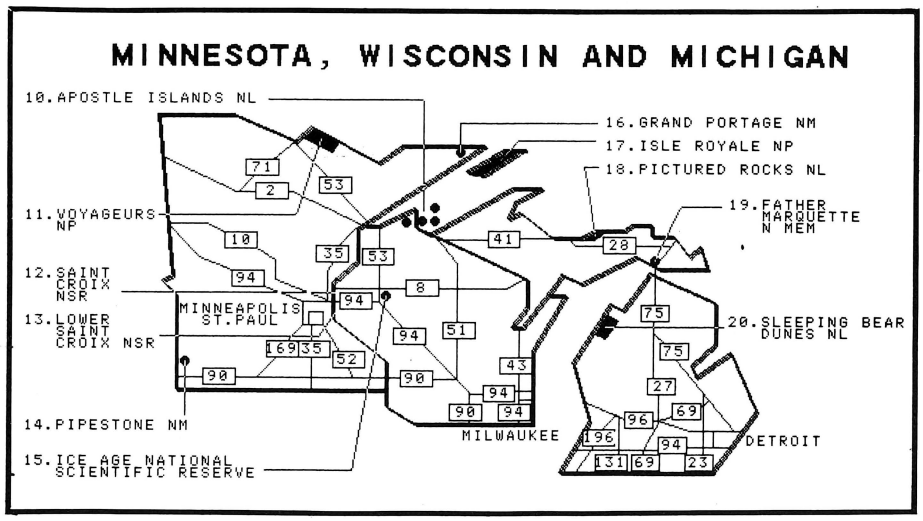
Despite the size of the project and the hundreds of pages of text in three foreign languages, there were only minor typographical errors in some of the on-screen menus or prompts. For Steve and the Epson team the real challenge was "getting a 'bug free' program in less than four months."

When asked what he would change about the project, Phil Holmes said without hesitation, "I'd give Steve more time!" Steve agrees. Phil also stated "Epson gave us just what we asked for, even if it wasn't really necessary," in referring to on-screen prompts that took up space in the program but could readily be handled by brief instructions on a note card on the terminal stand.

Although the maps supplied by the NPS are very explicit, Phil feels they "clutter" screens that depict parks in densely populated, or metropolitan areas. Other minor changes that have already been made are to allow users to get printouts unassisted, and to expand the system to other park areas.

Both Steve and Phil were particularly excited about installing the systems which allowed them access to all three Olympic Villages not open to the public. They were the only two involved in the project that visited all three sites.

Response to the "high tech" solution from foreign visitors and Americans alike was very positive.The terminals at the Olympic Villages became informal translation centers. Athletes and other team members used printouts and screen displays to point out words in other languages to facilitate conversation, simplify understanding about other subjects, and to make post-Games travel arrangements. The UCLA site had the most activity. However the Atari Arcade next to the UCLA site did provide some real competition. Many of the foreign athletes made a special point to say "goodbye" to the rangers at the terminal sites before leaving the Games, something they did not generally do to other exhibit personnel, explained Phil Holmes.



Many people were interested in where the system would be after the Games. Plans are to expand the system to other national parks where there are few staff to provide park visitors with the information on the system. The system is easily duplicated, updated, and moved or installed at various locations. Phil is really excited about the avenues this project opens for further applications of computers in the parks system to solve problems of tracking information and assisting personnel in parks that are short staffed. Phil is quick to credit "the tremendous generosity of Epson and what this project represents to the National Parks Service. We were allowed to create an extremely useful system that just scratched the surface for future applications."

Epson was indeed generous, donating a dollar amount "in the low six figures" in combined hardware and man hours, according to Bill Page. Both Steve Mohr and Phil Holmes are proud of the work that they and their colleagues produced. The project reflects the pride and partnership of each individual, team, and of the National Parks Service and Epson America in a project that will last far longer than the two weeks in July 1984, and will spur many future applications for our mutual benefit. ■

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12PM - 4PM M-Sun
6PM - 12AM M-Sun

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24 Hrs. 7-Days H.D.

Perry (Lansing), Michigan
517-625-7822
3PM-12AM Mon-Fri
24 Hrs Sat-Sun H.D.

Lake Zurich (Chicago), IL
312-438-6149
Mon-Sat 8PM-11PM

Portage, Indiana
219-762-5620
6PM - 6AM 7days

Indianapolis, Indiana
317-881-3849
8PM-5AM Sun-Fri
Sat. 8PM-2PM Sun.

*Aurora, Indiana
812-926-3396
7AM-7PM Tues-Sun

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Telephone Number (___) _____
☐ Please have your nearest dealer contact me.

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ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EPSONCONNECTION **Quick Action Card**

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Telephone Number (___) _____
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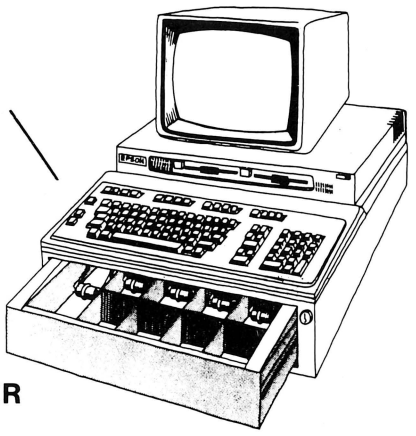

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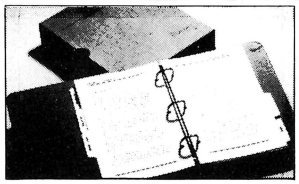

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* Features the Epson function keys: HELP, UNDO, STORE, RETRIEVE, PRINT, INDEX, and STOP.
* Allows text to be displayed at any location, size, or angle.
* Stores and retrieves the screen display on disk.
* Prints the screen display on Epson printers.
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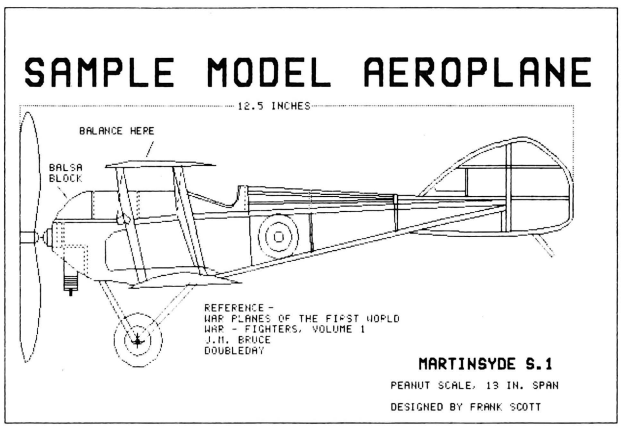

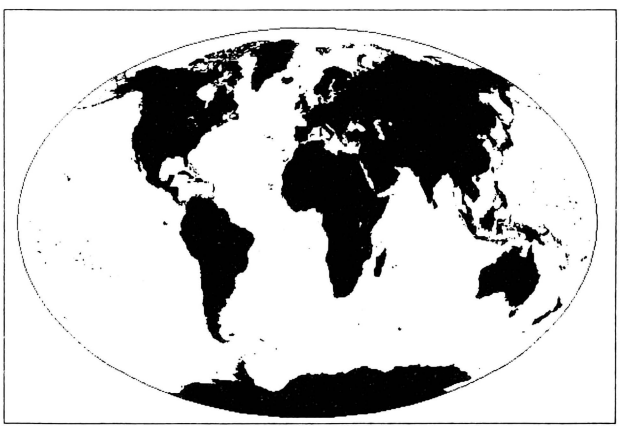

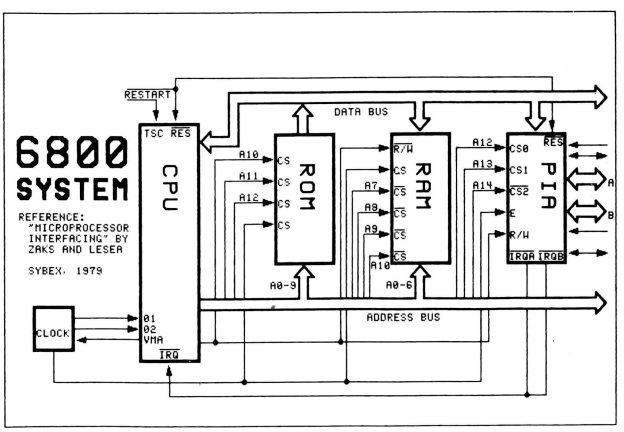

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EpsOnLine Part I

by Jessica Hatch and Bob Hermann

EpsOnLine™ is an online Special Interest Group (SIG) dedicated to people interested in Epson products. Here, hackers and novices alike share information, experiences, and viewpoints on Epson computer products. Users may also address questions directly to Epson America or Rising Star Industries and expect a prompt response.

EpsOnLine is sponsored by the Communications Department of the Computer Products Division at Epson America, Inc., 2780 Lomita Blvd., Torrance, CA 90505. Access to it is gained only through CompuServe Information Service (CIS). Starter kits for CIS may be obtained from your local computer dealer and include all the information necessary to begin using the service and five hours of connect time for about $35.00.

Packet-switching networks make access to CompuServe a local phone call in most instances. Compuserve has its own network of numbers which offer the fastest and most reliable method of access. If there is no local access available to this network, then you should try the local Tymnet or Telenet access number. A list of numbers for all three networks is included with the Starter kit; because new numbers are constantly being added, you may fail to find one in your area. If this is the case, check with CompuServe Customer Service to find the number for your area, (800-848-8990 outside Ohio and 614-457-8650 in Ohio). You will usually find the Customer Service department most helpful, but be forewarned that you may be on hold for up to twenty minutes waiting "for the first available representative."

Once you have an access phone number, and your user ID number and password (both included in the starter kit), you are ready to start. Your modem should be in the "ORIGINATE" mode and set at full duplex. The login procedures vary according to the type of access network used. For a direct CompuServe number, set your communications parameters to: 7 data bits, 1 stop bit, and even parity (Customer Service will inform you that 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, and no parity also works, but we have found the former to be more reliable). Baud rate will of course be determined by the type of modem used, with respectively higher charges incurred for 1200 baud (CompuServe's network can determine the baud rate you are using). If available, you should toggle your printer on or be using some sort of storage buffer to record your efforts. Have your user ID number and password readily available (and be sure to stow them in a safe place so you don't lose them). After dialing the phone number and receiving a carrier tone you will see the following:

CONNECT

Enter a carriage return, hearin indicated by: <cr>
01DET [your node number]
Host Name:

You should respond with:
CIS <cr> [capitals are not necessary]
User ID: [enter your ID number followed by a <cr>]
Password: [enter your password, which will not be displayed, again followed by a <cr>]
And you are online with CompuServe.

To access via Tymnet set communications parameters as above (again the service will automatically determine what baud rate you are using). Dial the appropriate number and when the carrier tone is received you should see the following:

CONNECT

You respond with a carriage return: <cr>

Terminal identifier: A [no carriage return]
Please log in: CPS <cr>

You will then be prompted for your user ID and password as above.

For Telenet access again use the same communications parameters. After receiving the carrier tone and the "CONNECT", hit "RETURN" twice, and you will then be prompted for your "Terminal Identifier". Answer with: d1<cr>. You will then see "@", to which you respond with: c 202202<cr>. Then you will either receive the "User ID" prompt or may first be asked for the "Host Name". If asked for the Host Name, respond with: CIS<cr>. You should then receive the "User ID" prompt.

When the opening CompuServe menu (shown below)

CompuServe Information Service

1 Home Services
2 Business & Financial
3 Personal Computing
4 Services for Professionals
5 The Electronic Mall™
6 User Information
7 Index
Enter your selection number,
or H for more information.
!

has scrolled on your screen and you have reached the first prompt, you can go directly to EpsOnLine by entering the

following at the "i" prompt:

go pcs-19<cr>

Your first contribution to this group should be to introduce yourself to the other members.

You will then go through the bulletins and arrive at the function menu of EpsOnLine, shown below.

Function Menu

1 (L) Leave Messages
2 (R) Read Messages
3 (CO) Conference Mode
4 (DL) Data Library (Former XA)
5 (B) Bulletins
6 (V) View Member Directory
7 (SS) Set Sub-topics
8 (OP) Set User Options
9 (I) Instructions
0 (EX) Exit the Forum

Once through this menu, your starting point is always this Function Menu Prompt. From the Function Menu Prompt, you may go to the message exchange feature, the reference library files, or databases and the conference feature.

The first action you should take is to obtain a list of the commands available. To do this enter "I" at the Function Menu Prompt. You may also enter a ? or H at any prompt to get lists of commands to help you navigate. If you cannot seem to makea feature work, leave a message for the system operator Jessica Hatch (ID 76703,551).

If you select option 2 from the new member menu, you will see:

- Any notice of messages sent to your ID
- Weekly "What's New" bulletin from sysop

Your first contribution to this group should be to introduce yourself to the other members. Leave a message to all telling who you are, where you hail from (city, state only — no address or phone, please). Mention your interests, your computer gear, or why you'd like to participate. Do this by electing option #1 from the new member menu. You will be asked who the message is to. Respond with "all". Enter your message (noting item 10 from the 'Membership Tips' list in this article), using two consecutive carriage returns to indicate it's conclusion. Store the message by entering "s0<cr>".

Whenever you leave a message it should be stored to one of the following categories:

DL 0: Let's Communicate
All text and program files used to communicate with others on CIS or other remote systems; executable modem programs and documentation.

DL 1: News and Reviews
All new product information; Epson policies, promotions, programs and happenings. Files then posted permanently to product sections below.

DL 2: Software Sources
Features latest lists of software COMMERCIALLY available to Epson users for all Epson computer products; also, installation/applications notes, and "patches."

DL 3: The Epson QX-10/QX-16
Product description, specifications non-printer peripherals and accessories

DL 4: GENEVA, HX-20
Again, product descriptions and basic how-to files. Information about accessories.

DL 5: Printer Power
Printer specifications, shopping charts

DL 6: Byte Exchange
Public domain applications programs, utilities and handy routines submitted by members. Programs cross all product lines. File documentation included here, too. All free for the taking. (File transfer how-to's in XA0)

DL 7: Epson Support
Find Epson distributors, Epson publications, warranty information and service here.

DL 8: Epson User Groups
Files list user groups and other bulletin boards available to Epson micro users.

DL 9: Non-Tech Niche
For closet poets, philosophers, humanities and liberal arts hold-outs; an escape from the technostresses of our time.

From this list we see that your own introductory message is stored in the "Let's Communicate" category. In addition to the message system, there is a separate database system containing these same ten categories. Here programs and document files may be up and down loaded. Enter this section of the system by typing "dl#<cr>", where # represents one of the sections listed above. You may quickly see what files are contained in the respective sections by ignoring the menu prompts and entering "s<cr>". If you desire a short description of the files, enter "s'des<cr>". Return to the main part of EpsOnLine by entering a "t<cr>".

Membership Tips

1. Address technical questions to ALL for the fastest, widest broadcast of your need. Be sure that messages intended for a particular individual include his or her CIS number in the address ("To:"). We suggest you contact your dealer or distributor first about any technical or service questions before you post the question on EpsOnLine.
2. Share your own insights, fixes and expertise as you learn. Those who give the most, get the most, but there's no law against lurking.
3. Plan your access time so you do not waste time and money making needless transitions between sections.
4. Out of courtesy, post your message to the appropriate section header. For a list of section names, enter SN at the Function Menu Prompt.
5. Try to give your message a topical subject header to make scanning easy for other members (Some may wish to access a certain thread of messages). Plain labels communicate your subject best.
6. The system takes only so many messages. Please delete messages you have left after the recipient has retrieved them. (X) appears next to the recipient's name once the message has been retrieved. Use the RS command to quickly review messages you've left.
   If the message has not been automatically deleted from the system, the system operator reserves the right to delete any message left on the system more than 10 days whether or not the recipient has accessed the message.
7. Minimize the use of private messages. Use E-mail instead.
8. Database file transfer information is located in XA0. Please check any file you have transferred into the databases. Your file will not be accessible to members until the system operator merges the file to public access. Once public, please check your own file to make certain it is intact. All queries about a member-submitted file are referred back to the member!
9. Rules of courtesy and good taste prevail. Naturally.

10. Annoying System quirks:
EpsOnLine message is set for 72 characters per line. There is no warning about character overage, the system will simply beep and you'll have to retype the entire line. Keep lines short until you get the hang of things. EpsOnLine message editor is the editor available to the Special Interest Forums, not FILGE. Order CompuServe's Special Interest Forum Guide (Go CIS-1, follow menus to CIS publication on-line ordering feature) to learn more. Xmodem protocol transfer can be cranky. Don't spend hours trying at a stretch. Back off and try a day later. Report trouble to sysop 76703,551.

The new user will soon find the menu driven format to be boringly repetitive as well as time consuming and hence expensive. In our next installment we'll show you how to dispense with the menus by going to the command mode. We'll also explain in more detail how to use the database section, especially uploading and downloading files. And we'll discuss the use of FILGE, so that you may send private messages by EMAIL. ■

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To Clean or Not to Clean?

That is The Question

by Robert P. Kusy, Ph.D.

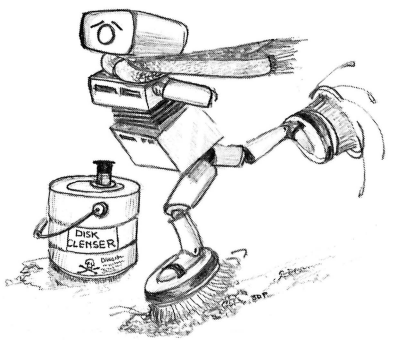
Recently, I've noticed local users groups admonishing their readership not to clean their QX-10 disk drives unless disk drive errors occur. Such statements as, "if it's not broke, don't fix it," have filtered down the communication network, presumably from Epson headquarters. Needless to say, this advice is contrary to everything we've all been taught. Routine disk maintenance is a requirement of all other computers which I've ever been associated with, and the disposable or solution-type disk cleaners recommend cleaning at one week intervals.

So who's right? It certainly can't be both ways. Rather than glibly suggest that the QX-10 drives are unique or that the disk cleaner manufacturers want us all to develop good habits for their sake, I'd like to relate my most recent experience and what I perceive the truth to be. You might subtitle what follow as, "When it does break, anything goes — and usually everything does!"

"When it does break, anything goes — and usually everything does"!

In March of '83, I purchased my QX-10 from a local vendor in the D.C. area. At that time nobody was thinking about how to clean the QX-10; everybody was too busy formulating ways to prevent the inherently unstable Valdocs 1.14 from crashing. "Great discoveries" were being made each day. For example, if you didn't select the change data disk option in the CTRL M menu before changing disks, directories were destroyed. In any given weekend there were probably dozens of individuals across the country rebuilding their blown directories with one of the <BUILD> programs which were available from the Epson dealers.

When the first "stable" version of Valdocs was released, 1.16G, I began to think, "Maybe I should start cleaning the disk drives?" Disk drive cleaners were so expensive though



($30-$40), and with my system configuration (QX-10/FX-80) crashes hardly ever occurred. So, I was pennywise... or was I?

Sometime during one of the myriad versions of Valdocs 1.18, I treated the disk drives to their first lavage. Using a solution cleaner, I followed the manufacturer's instructions and applied 2 ml into the window of the special cleaning disk and listened to the drive whirl around for about 30 seconds. I regarded this measure as obvious difference in performance resulted. On one other occasion, during the first eighteen months I performed this ritual, not knowing whether or not any good was being accomplished.

Late this summer I began to have trouble with my QX-10. The problems were always read and write errors. Since this time frame coincided with the transition to Valdocs 1.19, it was unclear to me whether a software problem or a hardware problem was occurring. Having mixed 1.18 and 1.19 documents indiscriminately on my disks and having edited documents originally formatted using 1.18 with 1.19 or vice versa, I was unsure to what extent I was culpable. Then I quickly rationalized that if I were to clean the disk drives and the performance improved, the disk drives must have been the culprit. This was further substantiated by the disk error statements which I read about that month in the Raleigh User's Group Newsletter, RAGE.

On faith I cleaned my drives. The result — instant disaster! At first I thought that the calendar had been turned back to those earlier days. Without going into the agonizing details, a proliferation of Disk Drive B, Bad Disk, Bad File, and on one occasion the concatenation of two unrelated documents occurred. Documents were being destroyed, indices lost, and trouble statements were being printed when attempts were made to use the COPY DISK function.

Finally, I resigned myself to two options: either send it off to be fixed, or, try to fix it myself. Being a Mechanical Engineer and pretty handy besides (and curious to learn what this "vanilla box" looks like inside, anyway), I decided to disassemble the CPU. Out came both the plug (very important!) and the tool box...

After removing the upper chassis case, I was immediately impressed by the layout of the hardware. Resistors were standing vertically as they oftentimes do in quality electronics, the 64K banks were laid out beautifully and labelled clearly, and the power source was isolated from the chips by the stream of air which

the fan pulled through the disk drives and (primarily) the front righthand vent.

One hour later, the two disk drives were sitting on the kitchen table. (Fortunately my wife was sleeping by this time, or she would have had something to say about this like... "Bob, are you sure that you know what you are doing? Remember the time that you put the AM/FM radio in the pick-up truck, and it only worked when we turned on the head lamps?"

One hour later, the two disk drives were sitting on the kitchen table.

Hmmmmm...). At least a contributory factor to my problem was acknowledged — the heads were filthy. The appearance around the heads reminded me of my youth when the axles of my electric train or slot cars picked up all of the lint and dust from the living room rug. C-a-r-e-f-u-l-l-y I removed a head (noting exactly the position it had been in before) and cleaned around it. The same was done for the B disk drive, too. Noting that these Epson disk drives are belt driven by a syncnronous motor, like my stereo turntable, and that a squeal had sporadically been on the increase, two very small dabs of V-belt dressing were applied. Finally, the superficial dust was blown-off of the circuitry, and the 12V cooling fan was removed and cleaned. This not only included the blades, but also the wire screen which covered the exit port on the back of the CPU which was heavily laden with dust. Total down time of repair — two hours.

Did I get it back together?... and, does it work now? You bet! No problems anymore. The air flows freely once again, and the hot spot (where the power transformer is) midway back on the righthand side of the CPU is much cooler. The disk drives not only operate more quietly, but also appear to execute read or write statements more quickly — presumably because the motors are driving the disks more efficiently. Most importantly, the disk errors stopped immediately. I have verified this recently by using the same disks which wouldn't even run before, by typing several documents, and by running one continuous session some eight hours in length.

What had gone wrong? My immediate problem was the contamination of the disk heads. Had I adopted a routine maintenance plan, my disk problems may have never occurred (barring the wearing out of the heads from excessive cleaning). However, when the accumulation of debris around the heads became excessive to the extent that occasional error statements occurred, my sporadic cleaning procedure literally precipitated either the release or migration of debris to the critical portion of the heads. Lurking in the background, however, was the long term possibility of overheating and failure of the solid state electronics. This latter observation was the greatest threat to my QX-10's tomorrow. Most of us are simply not qualified to do so. There are actions which you can take; however, which are within each user's capability.

You don't have to pamper it, but don't ignore it either.

First, decide on a program of maintenance. Whether or not you are a new owner or a veteran, adopt the manufacturer's "if it's not broke, don't fix it" attitude. As I learned, neglect was the better (and the cheaper) of the alternatives. Besides, Epson should know their hardware best. If, on the other hand, you believe in routine maintenance and don't want to wait for the inevitable, take your CPU to your local dealer for an annual check-up. You take your car in for servicing don't you? So, why not your computer?

Second, look, feel, and listen for early signs of problems. The screen of the fan actually will become occluded with time, and the heat will build up noticeably on the righthand side of the CPU as the air flow decreases. Listen for the purr of the fan and the low pitched drone of the disk drives. If you are not sure that the fan is on, drop a small piece of tissue paper next to the exit port and see if it is whoshed away. Should hisses, squeaks, or shrills from the disk drives occur for a prolonged period, have the belts checked or replaced.

Your QX-10 should last for thousands of operating hours if you just pay a little attention to these early signs of trouble. Remember... just fifteen years ago, that instrument in your study retailed for about $250,000. You don't have to pamper it, but don't ignore it either!

■

Epson America Technical Service recommendation: Routine computer maintenance is advised. An average user (2-4 hours a day) should clean there drives once every 6 months, and more frequently for units used more than average. Use a "wet type" top grade disk cleaner. Opening the computer up is not recommended for the average user, and will void the 12 month warranties.

NLQ Board for FX Series, RX + and JX 80 Printers

by Bill Nagler, MD

The Epson Special Font Set (NLQ Board) is a new printer enhancement available for the Epson FX series, RX+, and JX printers. The board allows you to produce Near Letter Quality on your "old" printer. The print speed is slowed to 32 cps (compared to 80 cps) in NLQ, or 6K when out of NLQ. The board is available for serial or parallel printers.

Following the photo illustrated user's manual, the two board set was easily installed (five minutes) inside my FX printer. The pica type NLQ print produced is impressive, even with an old printer ribbon. The NLQ board is easily controlled from TPM, using MBASIC commands, etc.

There is one problem, however. The NLQ Board is NOT controllable from Valdocs. But, with a slight modification (and some additional hardware) it is easy to set up your system to print in either NLQ (32 cps) or Draft (160 cps) mode from Valdocs.

By purchasing a Comrex CR-700 (or other parallel "switch box"), and two additional lengths of parallel cable, you can make a simple installation that will solve this problem. Run cable from both the NLQ port and the "original" port in the printer, to the switch box. You now will be able to switch in and out of NLQ mode while in Valdocs.

Happy printing.

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256K	QX-2	$ 670	**$570.00**
384K	QX-3	$ 895	**$761.00**
512K	QX-4	$1,045	**$888.00**

Prices include MS-Dos software and manual.

Auxiliary boards (to boost to ram of our existing QX-PC II board).

DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	LIST	YOUR COST
128K	AB-1	$249	**$229**
256K	AB-2	$399	**$369**

TITAN'S MS-DOS RAM DISK uses 180K of RAM on the QX-10's motherboard to simulate a disk.

DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	YOUR COST
RAM DISK	MS-D	**$40**

AMPLOT II / Q PLOTTER CAD PACKAGE

The Amplot II is a professional 6 pen automatic plotter that has a large 10" x 15" plot range. Q-Plotter by Metro Software is the most sophisticated C.A.D. program available for the QX-10 today. The list price for the package is $1549, but our price is only $900 total.

DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	LIST	YOUR PRICE
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A Power Conditioner With a Remote Switch

The Black Max eliminates powerline pollution, local line interference and damaging thunderstorm surges which cause equipment damage. This quality power conditioner offers the maximum protection for your hardware and software investment at an economical cost. The BLACK MAX comes equipped with a remote control switch which enables you to place all power distribution wires out of sight and potentially dangerous areas.

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ITEM #	LIST	YOUR COST
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ITEM #	YOUR COST
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DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	YOUR PRICE
DOSPLUS IV	DP-4	**$169.95**

!!NEW!! BUSINESS PAC 100

100 ready to run business programs that are great for small businesses that don't require extensive, sophisticated programs. Also useful for home finances and college business courses.

INCLUDES: 128 page Users Manual...Inventory Control...Payroll...Bookkeeping System...Stock Calculations...Checkbook Maintenance...Accounts Receivable...Accounts Payable...etc.

DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	YOUR PRICE
BUSINESS PAC 100	BP-1	**$149.95**

CASH REGISTER CONTROL

CASH REGISTER CONTROL IS AN AMAZINGLY VERSATILE RETAIL SALES AND INVENTORY CONTROL SYSTEM THAT HAS BEEN CAREFULLY DESIGNED FOR THE FIRST TIME COMPUTER USER. You can quickly and easily learn to use CASH REGISTER CONTROL's many features, because you learn them one step at a time.

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- Keeps track of cash, check, credit card and open account sales.
- Can store names, addresses, credit limits and balances for open account customers, and print statements.
- Includes an integrated inventory control system that keeps track of stock levels of all items in and out of stock, and automatically notifies you of low stock levels. Prints inventory reports and pricing labels with product descriptions and codes.
- Prints sales reports that provide an organized picture of your daily sales activity. Reports include transaction audit trail, daily sales by item, and daily sales by salesperson.
- And many more features included.

DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	YOUR PRICE
CASH REGISTER CONTROL	CRC-1	$250

THE MARKET PAC

THE MARKET PAC is a selected set of 37 separate programs designed to help both financial professionals and private investors in the analysis of positions and prospective positions in various securities.

The computer will guide you step-by-step through the operation. A complete user's manual is provided that gives complete full-page descriptions of each calculation and function.

FEATURES: Portfolio Valuation...Trend Analysis...Bond Calculations...Money Market Analysis...Portfolio Bookkeeping...Future Projections...And much more!!!

DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	YOUR PRICE
THE MARKET PAC	MRP-1	$99.95

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An integrated package that allows you to use your computer to manage a small business.

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DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	YOUR PRICE
SMALL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	SBS-1	$250

CHECKBOOK PLUS

CHECKBOOK PLUS is the only complete financial program that's simple enough for a beginner's household budget, yet powerful and flexible enough to help run a small business!

FEATURES: Prints Checks, Automatic Monthly Bill Payments, Tax Preparation Aid, Printouts include - Review of Checkbook, Outstanding Checks, Payee Listing, List of Transactions for Single Category or all Catagories, Payable Checks, Payroll Checks, Search Reports, uses on screen explanations at every step along the way, and more!!!

DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	YOUR PRICE
CHECKBOOK PLUS	CKP-1	$99.95

MAIL PAC II

MAIL PAC II is a powerful new mailing list system with a built-in word processor. And an on-screen "HELP" feature for beginners makes it easy for anyone to get started quickly and easily.

FEATURES: Hard Disk compatible, Can turn "HELP" feature off, Checks for duplicate entries, Form Letter Generator with Built-In Word Processor, Prints Labels, Sorts by Zip or Alphabetical order, Print selected groups of labels by searching for any user-defined code, and more!!!

DESCRIPTION	ITEM #	YOUR PRICE
MAIL PAC II	MP-2	$99.95

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Valbots

by Carolyn McCarthy

TP has continued his search for 2.0 for almost a year now. In the last episode he was entrusted with a special potion called "ValRelease." This potion was concocted by Coda, who mysteriously disappeared. TP was left with the task of taking it to Valtopia in hopes it would drive the Valblahs away. The Valblahs have cast a spell over the Valtopians which has rendered them helpless and discouraged. TP secretly suspected that the Valblahs are agents of the Inferior Bigness Mogul. It has become obvious to TP that unless he can reach the Wizard of Valtopia, or release the spell himself, there is little hope for full integration. TP is not one to give up, or let other forces control his destiny. He was transported to a secret port of entry with the help of Cad and Cam. TP now follows the Data Stream up through the hills towards its source.

If only he can reach the source of Data, he can pour the potion into the stream, and let it disperse through the whole system. The journey upstream takes him past various villages. Each village is marked by a signpost pointing to a different pathway. The first signpost says "Peachtree Lane." He passes other villages and other routes: Word Way, Perfect Path, Ski Street, and W. Star Boulevard. The walk was busy; people were frantically crossing from one road to another with no apparent purpose. TP grew weary from the confusion and decided to stop for a while on the road to W. Star. Approaching the village TP notices a whirring sound coming from behind. He spins around in time to see flying creatures approaching. They are prehistoric HXadactyls and some new born PXorphodons. They seem driven by some undefined basic force. TP quickly dodges behind some trees and spots a cave like opening nearby. Taking refuge he finds it is a small warm cavern. Suddenly the cave opening is obscured and TP finds himself facing an incredibly gigantic Titan-like creature. *(And you think you have problems with indexes, margins, lost data. . .).* TP frantically searched the area for any sort of weapon, to defend himself. Spying an old board, he grabs it and holds it up for protection. Magically the board is changed, and turns into a silver sword. With one swing of the sword a powerful spell is released, and TP finds himself alone in a clearing by a beautiful lake. This must be the source of the data stream! Desperately TP uncorks the bottle of ValRelease potion and hurls it, along with the sword, into the water. Overcome by exhaustion, and not knowing what to expect next, TP sat down and rested. TP knew there would be some sort of sign; some type of reaction, once it had dispursed through the entire system of Valtopia.

It was almost dark now, and the stars were just beginning to rise in the horizon. What a beautiful picture it would make thought TP, "If only I could draw and paint this colorful scene." TP then fell asleep. What will the new day bring? Will the Valtopians be able to realize their full potential? We hope so. . .

Step by Step Transfer;

There are various methods for transferring files from the PX-8 to the QX-10. The procedure used is dependent on both the type of file to be transferred, and the resources available. Files are either ASCII or non-ASCII. A non-ASCII file is usually a program file such as WS.COM or PIP.COM. As you can see, the three letter extension '.COM' will define such a file (other non-ASCII files include those with .ASM, .OBJ, and .BIN extensions). ASCII files are most commonly .TXT (text), .BAS (BASIC), .DOC (document) files. Anything you create with Wordstar and Peach Text are ASCII files.

The particular hardware and software at your disposal also determine the method of transmission. Ideally you will have the programs FILINK on the PX and QXFILINK on the QX. Designed with special error-checking protocol, these two programs offer the easiest and most practical method of interchange.

There are various methods for transferring files from the PX-8 to the QX-10

However, QXFILINK is not as yet widely distributed, and many have to make do with alternatives. MTERM on the QX and TERM on the PX suffice for the transfer of ASCII files, but non-ASCII files require a transfer procedure incorporating some type of error checking protocol, most commonly an XMODEM (Christensen) protocol program.

Physical Hookup

For simplicity we will assume that a direct physical connection will be made between the two computers. This requires the Epson 725 cable. This cable has a male mini-din connector on one end and a male DB-25 on the other, as does the 724 cable. It is essential; however, that you do not use the 724 cable. Be aware that there is an assumption that all 725 cables are brown, and all 724 cables are grey. We have found that this is not always the case. All cables are labeled, albeit rather diminutively, several times along their length. Careful inspection should reveal a label reading "Epson Corporation cable set #725." Connect the mini-din end of the 725 cable to the RS-232C port of the PX (labeled so directly above the port), and insert the other end into the serial port of the QX (also labeled RS-232C).

Protocol Matchup

In order for the two computers to be able to communicate they must be talking the same "language at the same speed." This means that the data bits, stop bits, parity and baud rates must be matched exactly. If MTERM is to be used on the QX, this must be accomplished when in MTERM (detailed later). If using an XMODEM program you must use SETUP from the CP/M80 disk to obtain the required parameters. Enter the SETUP program and at the main menu elect option "G". Set the baud rate to 4800, data bits to 7, stop bits to 1, and parity to EVEN. Then hit "E" to exit this submenu, and then "P" to make the changes permanent. Likewise, select option "G" from the CONFIG program on the PX to set the EXACT SAME parameters — baud rate 4800, data bits to 7, stop bits 1, and parity EVEN. Then hit "ESC" twice to return to the system. Next be sure that you have enough space on the disk you are using to hold the file(s) you intend to transfer.

Software

ASCII Files. MTERM on the QX and TERM on the PX may be used to transfer ASCII (Wordstar) files. On the QX, with the CP/M80 disk still in the drive, hit the "MAIL" key to execute the MTERM program. When the program has loaded, hit the "MENU" key and chose the "R" option to set the communications parameters to those listed above. Then hit "B" to open the buffer, and "T" to go to the terminal mode. Next, on the PX, enter the TERM program from the drive that the file to be sent resides (probably the A drive) by

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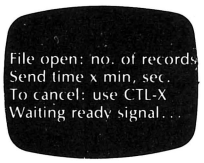
Geneva To QX-10

by Bob Hermann

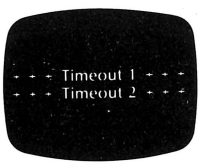
entering "c:term" at the "A>" prompt. When prompted for a mode, select option "2". Then hit PF3 (function key 3) to send a file. Enter the file name as asked and hit "return." You will then be asked to "set transmission delay" times and should answer 0, 10, and 0 respectively. The file will then be transferred from the PX to the QX. When the transfer is complete, go to the MTERM menu (depress the "MENU" key) and close the buffer by hitting "B". Then save the contents of the buffer to disk by hitting "s" and giving the file an appropriate name. You may then clear the MTERM buffer by returning to the opening menu and hitting the "C" key, and send more files, or hit the "E" key and exit the program. Exit the TERM program on the PX by hitting PF10 (shift PF5).

Non-ASCII Files. Transfer of non-ASCII files requires the use of an error checking protocol. The public domain MODEM7 series of programs incorporate the Christensen or XMODEM protocol, which satisfies our requirements. We shall use versions of this program — MDM727 on the QX, and EPX740 on the PX — to transfer non-ASCII files. First we have to be certain to have the 725 cable attached as outlined above. Then set the communications parameters on both computers to 1200 baud, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit, and no parity (higher baud rates may be used for faster transfers). If you double check these settings to insure their accuracy, you may save yourself a lot of headaches. Enter the MDM727 program on the QX by typing in the program name (without the .COM extension) and hitting "return." Do the same for EPX740 on the PX. Both programs should now have the cursor positioned at their respective command prompts — "A>>" — assuming you are logged into drive A ot both machines. On the QX, enter "R FILENAME.EXT," where FILENAME.EXT is the name of the file you desire to transfer (if the file to be transferred is not on the current logged drive, you may indicate the appropriate drive by entering "b:" preceding the filename, i.e "R B:FILENAME.EXT").Do not hit the "return" key yet. Enter "S FILENAME.EXT" on the PX, and then hit the "return" keys on both computers simultaneously. You should see the following on the QX:

and on the PX the screen should show:



When the actual file transfer commences, there should be an indication on each computer of the respective number of records sent and received. If the communications parameters have been properly set up, and you are using a properly attached 725 cable, there should be no difficulty. If you do not see an indication that the file transfer is occurring properly, but observe something like



re-check the communications parameters and cable connections. This procedure may be used for ASCII as well as non-ASCII files.

QXFILINK. If you are lucky enough to have a copy of QXFILINK then you have the easiest and most convenient means of transferring files between the PX and the QX. Set up the 725 cable and match the communications protocol for the two computers as indicated above (use SETUP on the QX and CONFIG on the PX,) setting the baud rates to 9600 this time. Enter FILINK on the PX and QXFILINK on the QX. You should see the program credits and then a listing of the current communications parameters on the respective machine. Check to be sure the communications parameters are IDENTICAL. Then indicate that you wish to send a file from the PX by entering "S", and then enter "R" on the QX to indicate that it is to receive a file. Enter the appropriate filename on each computer (it is not necessary to match filenames, if you should desire to have the file named differently on the QX from what it is on the PX), preceding the name with a drive location as above, if necessary. Wildcards may be used to transfer multiple files, allowing the transfer of the contents of an entire drive of the PX to the QX by entering "*.*" on both machines (note that wildcards may also be used in the XMODEM transfer outlined previously). If you have files appropriately named, say by day of the week, then you could send all of Monday's files by entering "*.mon". Having selected the file or files for transfer, just hit the "return" keys on both computers, and the transfer will begin. The filenames should appear on the screens of each machine followed by a series of dots that each represent 128 bytes of data transferred. When the transfer is complete, you then have the option of making another transfer or exiting the programs. ■

Five Thousand Years Ago...

Chinese Behavioral Scientists Wrote the First Software Program

But they didn't have computers. Even so, printed versions of this program became, next to the Bible, the best selling book in the history of the world.

Incredibly, the Chinese had created a computer-like code. (Binary bits they called yin and yang.) This code generated the answers to any question a person could ask about the changes taking place in his life. They discovered the key which unlocks the door to the subconscious.

They found a way to release the creativity that each of us has, lying in wait, in the right hemisphere of our brain.

It is called The Book of Change.

The Time Has Arrived

Now, in 1985, modern technology has made it possible for us at Software Country to join this ancient wisdom with your Epson QX-10. Here is a fascinating program that magically provides a meaningful response to any concern that you share with it. By using your QX-10's ability to generate random numbers, manipulate transpositions, and store and retrieve information, Software Country has created this program to bring 5,000 years of accumulated wisdom to your fingertips. All you have to do is boot your diskette, think of a meaningful question, and you will make contact with an entity that we are certain will become your sage and trusted friend.

An Interactive Adventure About You

You already have the answer, buried in your subconscious, to any question you might ask about your relationships with people or about the events in your life.

You can immediately print all of your sessions with either The Book of Change or the Decision Maker, or you can file them on diskette for later retrieval, printing and review.

Money Back Guarantee

Software Country is absolutely committed to the worth of The Book of Change. We want you to experience it. Therefore, for a limited time, we are offering The Book of Change including the Decision Making module, with an unconditional 30 Day Money Back Guarantee. If for any reason, within the first 30 days after you receive The Book of Change, you choose to return it, Software Country will sadly but promptly refund the full purchase price.

Free Personal Data Base Program

"Greetings" is a menu driven program that allows you to create thousands of "index cards" on diskette, containing the names, addresses, birthdays and other pertinent data about family, friends

Dr. Carl Jung, the world famed psychoanalyst, suggested, concerning The Book of Change, "...Why not have a dialogue with this book that appears to be animated? For lovers of self-knowledge, of wisdom, it seems to be the right book."

So The Book of Change is really an interactive text adventure about you. It will show you how to get in touch with the wisdom that you already possess, and teach you how to make the best life-choices. It will show you how to slay real-life dragons, avoid real-life dungeons, and capture real-life treasure.

Improve the Quality of Your Life

You deal with change every minute of every day. Changes at work, changes in your finances, changes in your health, and most importantly, changes in the attitudes and affections of all the people in your life. By unleashing the power concealed in the right hemisphere of your brain, The Book of Change shows you how to take advantage of these changes—to use them to your benefit.

Make Better Decisions

Software Country's programmers have created a powerful decision-making program as a fully integrated module of the Book of Change Program. We discovered that when people use the question-answering feature of The Book of Change, they experience profound insights. These insights, submerged in the right hemisphere of the brain, proved to be a potent force when raised to the conscious level and brought to bear upon the left brain's decision-making process.

Therefore, we have provided the decision-making program as the logical conclusion to the process of using The Book of Change. We believe that this unique logic-finding module, if sold separately, would be worth the price of the program by itself.

You Can Print a Journal

The Book of Change program has complete printing, filing, and retrieval capabilities. Many people have said that these features provide an invaluable way of recording their personal growth process. You may keep track of the decisions that you have made, your reasons for making them, and the relative importance of each reason.

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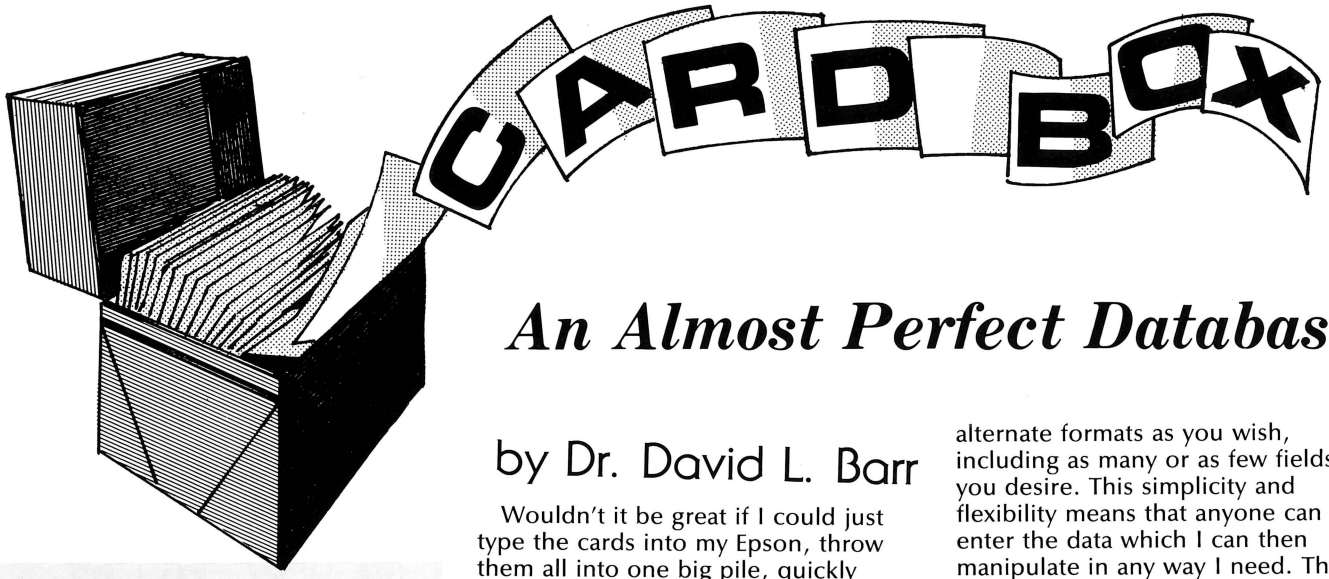

An Almost Perfect Database

by Dr. David L. Barr

SPEC SPOT

Product: Cardbox
Type: Database Management Program
Computer: Epson QX-10 (PX-8 review in process)
Operating System: CP/M 80, A or B; MP/M
Required Peripherals: None
Price: $250
Ease of Use: Very easy to use
Performance: Very Good
Documentation: Excellent, includes tutorial and reference
Summary: An outstanding text-oriented database with great flexibility and excellent speed. Imitates a 3 X 5 cardfile with great success.
Manufacturer:
Caxton Software Publishing Company, Ltd.
10-14 Bedford Street
Convent Garden, London
England, WC2 E9H

Keeping track of things can be a monumental job. I look at hundreds of articles and dozens of books a year. I even read some of them. Unfortunately, I cannot remember all of them. That is why, over the past eight years, I have accumulated the equivalent of six shoeboxes full of three-by-five cards. Some of them are now obsolete (I throw them out whenever I come across them); some are misfiled (I have looked for hours for a book I just knew was there); each is filed in only one category (now if I could just remember which). There are many other limitations of this system: like always having to refile cards after using them, losing cards, making the cards in the first place. There must be an easier way.

Wouldn't it be great if I could just type the cards into my Epson, throw them all into one big pile, quickly pull out a given card by any topic or word that caught my fancy, always be able to find any book or article even if I could only remember one word of the title or author, and never have to refile? Well that is the concept that my new computer friends call a database. I have now used two databases for several months: Peachtree's List Manager (a.k.a. Mailing List) and Cardbox from Caxton Software. Since so many QXers are familiar with List Manager, I will use it as a foil to bring out the strengths and weaknesses of Cardbox.

My greatest difficulty in getting Cardbox up and running (as they say) was figuring out how to get the CP/M system tracks on the disk. I was new to this game. Having solved that mystery, things went remarkably smoothly. Cardbox (hereafter CB) comes with two small, spiral bound manuals: a tutorial (28 pages) and a reference manual (76 pages). Both are simple, clear, comprehensive and indexed. You know what you are doing in ten minutes, feel like a master in a couple of hours, and seldom look at the documentation after the first week.

CB allows you to decide how you will put your data in, even letting you draw a form on the screen that you can then fill in. If you later decide to change it, no problem. You can rearrange it, increase or decrease the size of a field, even add or subtract fields without having to start over. Fields can be any size; unlike Friday! which gives you an ungenerous 32 characters for each field. Each record is limited to the size of the screen. None of this would be possible with List Manager. Not only that, but you can then reformat your data in any form you desire with as many alternate formats as you wish, including as many or as few fields as you desire. This simplicity and flexibility means that anyone can enter the data which I can then manipulate in any way I need. That's the fun part.

The data can be filtered by the commands: Select, Include, and Exclude. You can back up a step if you go too far, get a history of what you have done, even try a preliminary search to see how much you are likely to turn up. The search process is fast. A 300 record database with 10 fields can be searched for one word in any field in about 3 seconds. It gets really fast if you only look in one field. If you try this with List Manager you not only have time to go get a cup of coffee, you have time to brew it. This speed is achieved by indexing. CB automatically creates a table of all the indexed words and the particular slots in which it has filed some item with that word. Any word in any field can be indexed with no limits. The setup routine allows you to choose: automatically index every word in the field, manually select which words to index, manually select which words not to index, or never index words in this field. Even words not indexed can be found by a special "mask" command which ignores the indexing (this option is slow). The search facility ignores case, can use wildcards, and look for partial words (Select/Matt+ will turn up all the references to Matthew in English, German, or French as well as the adjectival form Matthean). Nice.

Adding, editing, deleting, printing, writing to disk are all straight forward operations. Everything is menu driven. Combining data from two files and writing data in formats readable by other programs (including dbase II) are possible. It cannot, alas, read data from other databases.

And there are other shortcomings to this excellent program. My greatest disappointment was to find that once I had selected all the records on a

certain subject and wished to print out my bibliography I had to print it out in the random order I had entered the data. It will not alphabetize the list before printing, something List Manager does automatically. Another difficulty I encountered early on occurred when I reformatted. If you do not make your fields the same length in the two formats you can split a word. It does not wordwrap. A minor irritant: like List Manager you must exit to CP/M to get a directory if you cannot remember the name of your file. My greatest terror happened the day my student worker rebooted the machine in the midst of an editing session. No file. As far as CB could determine those hundreds of books had never been entered. A friend had given me a copy of the utility program Unerase, and sure enough it did! This feature will add a certain excitement to your life if you live in an area that loses power. But we all keep backups, right?

Another liability is that Caxton is a British company with not much support in evidence. Send in your registration and you lose the only item with their address on it. Neither the documentation nor the disk tells you how to get in touch with them. The nice part is that you will not need much support.

The program pretty much runs itself. Plug it in, tell it the name of the database you want to use, punch escape G, and you are in business. There are instructions on the screen for every phase of the operation. This is an excellent beginners database. It will not do some of the fancy things: no math, no universal updates, no passwords, no checking for data types, only one file open at a time. But it does all the basics, and it does them quickly and easily. If you have a bunch of things you want to keep track of and would like to just throw them into one big pile and then get them back on demand, this might be the database for you. If you would decide you need more sophistication, you could dump your data to any one of several other programs without any rekeying. For the price and ease of use, it's an excellent program. Almost perfect.

Dr. Barr is associate professor and chairman of Religion Studies at Wright State University. He uses his QX-10 primarily for writing, just completing a 700 page manuscript for Wadsworth Press. ■

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New Features Now Available in Version 2

The latest version of *Fancy Font* takes advantage of the phenomenal resolution of the Epson FX and RX printers to achieve laser printer quality. High resolution versions for the Toshiba 1350, 1351, 1340 and the Epson LQ-1500 will soon be available.

This version boasts a greatly expanded set of formatting commands, including word-wrap. Special typesetting features such as kerning and automatic ligature formation are provided by an optional utility.

As part of our library of fonts and utilities we have packages that make *Fancy Font* directly compatible with Microsoft Word, Wordstar and Valdocs; if you know how to use any of these word processors then you already know how to use *Fancy Font*. Alternatively, you can still use almost any word processor to create a text file to be printed with *Fancy Font*.

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Fancy Font customers are constantly discovering new applications.

- Business and personal letters
- Mailing labels from databases
- Custom forms, invoices, signs
- Foreign Languages
- Mathematical Notation, Greek
- Super- and Sub-scripts
- View Graphs
- Custom Letterheads
- Name tags, badges
- Articles for publication
- Newsletters, brochures
- Complete manuals
- Advertisements
- Resumés, invitations

Create Your Own Characters

Hundreds of fonts are available in our font library, and furthermore, you can create any new characters or logos you like, up to 1 inch by 1 inch. A database of over 1500 characters is included that makes it possible to print foreign languages and mathematical notations.

Font Style Samples

small **large** **Bold** *Italic*

Sans Serif *Script* Old English

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Trademarks: Fancy Font (SoftCraft), Wordstar (Micropro), CP/M (Digital Research), Valdocs (Rising Star), Microsoft, IBM

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MSDOS and CP/M versions are available for the following printers: Epson MX FX RX, IBM Graphics, Star Gemini 10X Radix Delta, TI 850 855, Inforunner. MSDOS versions only are available or will soon be available for: Toshiba 1350 1351 1340, Epson LQ-1500, C.Itoh Prowriter, NEC 8023. Specify printer when ordering.

SoftCraft, Inc., 222 State St. #400, Madison, WI 53703 (We've moved from California)	orders: (800) 351-0500 from Wisc: (608) 257-3300
Fancy Font System	$180 ____
Fancy Font Demo Disk	$10 ____
Calif. and Wisc. residents add sales tax	6.5% or 5% ____
Outside US add $10 postage (only $2 for demo)	$10 or $2 ____
Diskette Format: (IBM PC, Epson QX10, Osborne DD, Kaypro, 8" CP/M, Apple CP/M, Victor)	____
Printer: (Epson FX, Epson MX, etc.; see box at left)	____
$7.50 of demo cost is applicable towards Fancy Font purchase.	
CP/M requires 64K, MSDOS 128K memory.	
Fully transparent 8-bit printer interface required on Apple and CP/M.	

Book Store

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This book is intended to take the mystery out of hooking up and installing an Epson printer. It explains DIP switch settings and software switches, tells how to take advantage of the graphics capabilities, and gives tips on keeping it running faster, longer and more economically. Published by:

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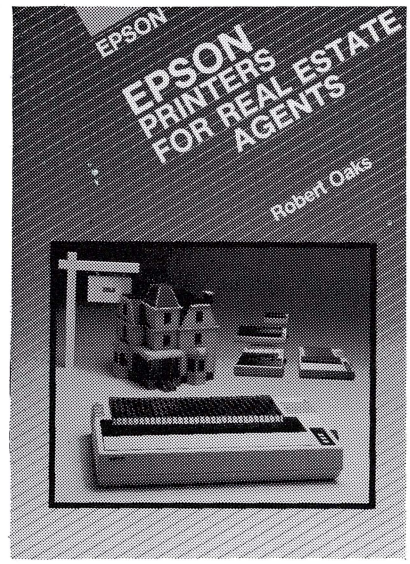

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Fancy Font

by Mark Jacobson

Fancy font is referred to as a personal typesetting program. It provides special print fonts for your Epson or high quality dot matrix printers. Font sets range form eight to 40 point size and many print styles including Roman, Sans Serif, Script and Olde English. There are four different programs with the new Fancy Font 2.0 Version:

Pfont	the main Printing program
Efont	an Editing of fonts program
Cfont	to Create new fonts
Vfont	to print Valdocs files.

Anyone who has stumbled through the old version of Fancy Font will appreciate all the effort that went into Fancy Font Version 2.0. (Don't confuse this with Valdocs 2.0!!!) There had been much complaining about the manual, all the work one had to go through for near letter quality print (including some tricky maneuvers), and the lack of flexibility of the program. By adding several commands and changing the way others worked, Fancy Font is much improved and by far easier to use than ever before. Softcraft has designed a slick utility for those of us using Valdocs called Vfont. Vfont is run from the MENU key, by selecting <M>enu of Applications, <R>ight drive, and then calling up Vfont. The program is menu driven and runs an Indexed Valdocs file without any other steps. It gives you an index listing of the Valdocs files on the disk and asks you which one to run. (Note: this listing is reversed from the regular Valdocs index menu, with the most recent file on top.) Vfont runs Pfont using a specially converted version of your Valdocs file, with additional Pfont control commands inserted from the parameters set up in Valdocs. This file, called PFONT.$$$, is not normally seen by the user and is overwritten each time Vfont is run. I have included in my samples the printout of this intermediate file just for illustration.

The default fonts run by Vfont are as follows: regular type (no bold or italics), Roman 12 pt; the BOLD key is Roman 12 pt. bold; the ITALIC key is Roman 12 pt. italic. If both the BOLD and ITALIC keys are pressed, you get regular 12 pt. Roman with an underline. Should you want fonts other than these, they can be inserted on the line, "Enter any commands needed by the Application," following the selection of Vfont.Other parameters you may wish to change are entered on this line also (rough draft, etc.).

As mentioned before, Vfont utilizes many parameters set up in the standard Valdocs text file. Currently supported are: change of typestyles, justification, line centering, length of page, margins, and non-break space. Also, each page is numbered as in Valdocs. Not currently supported are: tabs and conditional page breaks. Tabs are inserted with embedded commands and the spacing must be inserted on the parameter line.

For those people wishing letter quality print on their word processing, Vfont is as easy to use as Valdocs. If you want to get creative,

VFONT, the Valdocs Interpreter

This is a test of the new Fancy Font utility, Vfont. It takes a standard Valdocs *indexed* file utilizing bold, *or italics* and generates a file that will run directly in Pfont. After this generation takes place, it automatically runs Pfont. You get a finished file without ever handling embedded commands. It utilizes justification, change of typestyles, margins, release of margins, line centering, paper length, non-break space, and page numbering!! It doesn't support tabs or conditional page breaks.

Fancy Font Version 2.0 allows much more than before.

PFONT

Printing With Fonts

For those of you who have never used Fancy Font, I'll give you a brief overview. Pfont is the program for printing with a font or fonts that have already been created, either by Softcraft, or by using Cfont (More on Cfont later). Pfont takes a text file created by a text editor using embedded commands (i.e. Xc for centering a line, Xj for justification, etc. within the body of the text) and generates a printed copy using selected type fonts and other formatting parameters. This allows anyone with some patience to do some fairly serious typesetting, with mixing of typestyles and typesizes to create title blocks, headings, groupings of text, and general layout. I've generated advertising flyers as well as programs and agendas for workshops. The possibilities are endless.

Pfont Version 1.X had many limitations and was criticized for being overly tedious with difficult to understand documentation. The new Version 2.0 has overcome the many snags that frightened people away. The remainder of this section tells a little about the way it was and goes on to explain some of the improvements of the new Version 2.0.

Pfont 2.0 comes in two versions; the MX version which utilizes all of the Epson dot matrix printers (except the LQ-1500) and the Micronics Gemini 10X with the regular double density print, and the FX version, which utilizes the quad-density graphics capability of the FX and RX printers.

Fonts created under the old 1.X series will run under 2.0 after being modified with a utility called FONTCONV. This allows for conversion of older Version 1 fonts to run on either of the Pfont 2.0 versions, and between the two new versions. Softcraft cautions that converted fonts will be of lower quality than the fonts created specifically for a particular version, but they are indeed usable. This would be handy if you have already created special-purpose fonts.

This is probably a good time to mention that text files created for Version 1 will need to be modified to run on Version 2. There are only a few changes, but the manual should be consulted if an old file doesn't run correctly under Version 2.0 for the changed commands.

One of the biggest improvements of Version 2.0 is wordwrap. Should you type too much text on a line, the extra text will wrap to the next line. This also will fill up a line without enough text, pulling additional text from the line below. All that's needed is to specify wordwrap. Using breaks (Xb) at the end of paragraphs and other applicable lines suspends both wordwrap and justification.

Another new improvement is that now you can specify all horizontal and vertical position commands in either dots, inches, centimeters or some user-defined unit (which is defined on the Pfont/Vfont command line). In Version 1, figuring out how many 120ths of an inch equalled what you wanted horizontally was very tedious; now you can choose what's easiest for any particular situation. The MX Version 2.0 still uses 120 dots/inch horizontally, but the FX Version 2.0 uses 240 dots/inch horizontally.

Another feature is the ability to redefine margins. In Version 1, there was no direct way of defining the right margin. Now you can selectively indent from both margins for quotes and lists, and maintain justification. By combining commands, "released" margins are possible. (Softcraft calls it outdenting.) There is the ability to have multiple columns on a page (such as three in the EpsonConnection).

Fancy Font Test

This is a test of the Fancy Font Program using TEN different fonts.

If this seems unusual you are right. The test is conducted for use with the Epson LQ-1500letter quality printer.

In an effort to use all of the fonts, **it is imperative** to use them in a text document, such as this, typed on *PeachText* as the document *FontTest.*

This paragraph concludes the use of all 10 fonts. Many are specified, and some are not, such as the end of the paragraph, typed in the F0 font, which may be seen in the rest of the text.

SPEC SPOT

Program Name: Fancy Font, Version 2.0
Type: Applications
Computer: CP/M, QX-10 (see text)
Operating System: CP/M, TPM-II
Price: $180 or $25 upgrade for registered Fancy Font owners.
Ease of Use: Very easy from Valdocs, otherwise it can be tedious.
Performance: Excellent letter quality print,slow even on an FX printer.
Documentation: Easy to follow with tutorial.
Users: Anyone wanting either letter qualityfrom a dot matrix printer or someone wishing to do typesetting.
Summary: New version gives many improvements, high resolution on FX and RX printers (50,000 dots per inch - FX version), and proportional letter quality print. Using Vfont, the QX-10 is probably the easiest-to-use computer running Fancy Font.
Manufacturer:
SoftCraft, Inc.
222 State Street, Suite 400
Madison, WI 53703

It is now possible to do continuous underlining of both words and spaces. There is a single toggle command to continuously underline everything between (one for on, the next for off).

Softcraft has rewritten the manual using more descriptive examples. They have also added a help file for use when in the program. Probably the best way to learn Pfont is to briefly browse the manual for a basic idea of what to expect. Compare the sample text file with the printed-out version. Create a simple text file, looking up any parameters or embedded commands you're unsure of. Print it out in draft form to see just how your text file relates to what's printed, then go back to the manual for ideas on how to improve the look or make things easier. Get more creative in your manipulations and keep practicing! Soon you'll feel comfortable, but every time you go back to the manual you'll learn something new. Don't let the program intimidate you. Study the Vfont manual to determine what commands you don't need to use. The Vfont manual is printed in Vfont, and they have included the original text file at the end. It just may give you new ideas!

CFONT

The Font Creator

In order to print with fonts, the particular size and style font must exist on your data disk. Since Fancy Font Version 2.0 provides fewer pre-created font sizes and styles than Version 1, it is essential that the user learn to generate exactly what he needs for a particular situation. Softcraft has supplied the mappings for the generation of Script and Olde English fonts. These mappings correlate the ASCII keyboard codes with the Hershey data base codes for the many specific characters found in Appendix 6 of the manual. Unfortunately the current release lacks the mappings for generating Sans Serif fonts; maybe they'll insert it in a later release.

It is now possible to batch-generate fonts unattended, utilizing SUBMIT.COM and the supplied file MKFONTS.SUB. The instructions for doing this are clearly explained in the manual and in a file on the supplied disks called README. By typing out and examining MKFONTS.SUB, you can get a good indication of the parameters for the Script and Olde English fonts in the indicated sizes. It is then easy to generate these fonts in other sizes.

A word of caution: Font files cannot exceed 64K in size under any circumstances! Large size fonts may need to be broken up into upper and lower case letters to fit in a file. FX Version 2.0 font files are twice as large as MX Version 2.0 font files. If you are in doubt about the size of a file, you can use <D>irectory on the MENU key for the size.

EFONT

Efont is used to modify the parameters on an existing font. It's a technically oriented program which should be used only after the user is very comfortable with Pfont and Cfont.

In addition to editing fonts, Efont can be used to create bit-image graphics, as there is complete control over dot positions. Great for doing logos!

SUMMARY

The new Fancy font 2.0 is a very well thought out, much simpler and much improved set of programs, correcting many of the nuisances of earlier versions. The documentation is much easier to understand than in earlier versions and the HELP file is handy when running the programs. Something of concern is that even with an FX printer, it takes about 20 minutes to print an average page of text. This is not so much a fault of the software as the limitations of the speed of the printer. Graphics mode is unidirectional. (Note: the LQ-1500 gets its letter quality speed by having a 24 wire printhead.) The FX version utilizes six passes of the print head on every print line, although the improved logic-seeking of the printhead wastes far less time than in previous editions.

After using Fancy Font for some time, I discovered that when printing files with multiple or large fonts, it can be expeditious to run Pfont from a CP/M ramdisk program (either CP/M B or one of the other ramdisks found on Bulletin Boards), because much time is wasted during disk search. When loading Pfont, the program specifies where each font used will reside, either in memory or on disk. When on disk, a disk search is made between print lines (every line in MX version, every 2 lines on FX version), slowing things down considerably. Running from a ramdisk eliminates these searches. When running Pfont in CP/M, the Vfont file, PFONT.$$$, may be used as an input file, or renamed and kept for future use before it's overwritten.

Softcraft will soon have font library disks available to registered owners for $15 each, containing from 2 to 20 fonts, depending on font size. Also, a Cfont tutorial disk will be available soon for $7 to registered owners.

Mark Jacobson is the Vice President and Liaison to Tech Support for the Miami Area Epson Users Group, Miami, Florida.

■

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Smartkey II lets you easily reprogram as many upper and lower case keys on your keyboard as you want, even while your other software — such as Peachtext, WordStar, dBase II, etc., — is in operation.

Uses for this powerful, easy to operate program are endless. With SmartKey II you can assign up to 3,750 characters to a single key. Once you have redefined keys, you can put them to work or change them at will. You can also store your "smart key" definitions in a special file and use them later, or make numerous definition files to use with a variety of your favorite programs or projects. Imagine saving complex command codes, boilerplate paragraphs, sentences, proper nouns, inventory numbers, or whatever, and then injecting any of them into your work with the stroke of a single key. This is a must-have, time saving computer program for all QX-10 users. SmartKey II can even make your Epson's HASCI keys come alive and be productive in CP/M programs.

SmartKey II has a little known super companion program called SmartPrint II. SmartPrint II retails at $49.95. SmartPrint lets you give single-stroke commands to your dot matrix printer to make it produce italics, greek characters, graphic symbols, boldface, underlining, extended typefaces, accent marks, and much more. SmartKey II retails at $89.95. Now, for a limited time only, Central's price for a combination SmartKey II and SmartPrint II pack is only $89. In addition, as a bonus, with your purchase you will receive a free copy of Paul Golding's book, *Screen Smarts, The Computer Tamer's Guide*. This book is a $15.95 value. It tells how Mr. Golding, a professional writer, uses SmartKey II to turn his humble computer into a supercharged dedicated word processor. Please don't delay, this offer may not be repeated. Order today to get SmartKey II, SmartPrint II, and a free copy of *Screen Smarts, The Computer Tamer's Guide*, fast.

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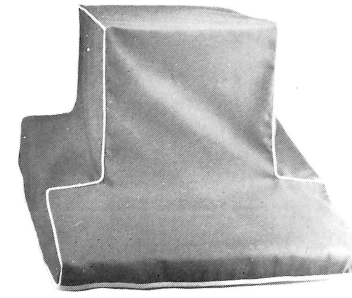
Photo: Form-fitting cover over CPU, monitor, and keyboard.



At last, the classic Epson dust cover you'll be proud to own and use. This first rate computer cover is made from a premium, lint free, static free, washable, free breathing, and fade resistant sailcloth. It comes in a rich looking Navy blue or Sand. The Navy cover has a smart contrasting silver gray piping and trim that adds a superior finished look. Not to be outdone, the Sand cover is handsomely finished in a rich chocolate piping and trim.

Matching sailcloth covers for all Epson and ComRiter printers: $15.95.
New. Special 2-piece QX-10 sailcloth cover protects monitor and CPU, and keyboard. $21.95 per set.

This remarkable form-fitting dust cover makes you feel good and will keep your Epson dust free and looking brand new for years to come. For a limited time only, your price for this factory direct, custom made, sailcloth Quality Cover is $18.95. When ordering remember to indicate color preference. This special low price is subject to change. You must be completely satisfied with your purchase of this cover or we will refund your money immediately. Order today.

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- Attractive colors
- Professional appeal

Richly tailored inside and out. Look inside any of our Quality Covers; see the ultimate finishing; we use machines that sew with 3 needles so that edges will not unravel or shed lint. We stress perfection because you deserve the best. Compare for long-lasting satisfaction.

FACTORY DIRECT

Letter Quality

Say goodbye to correspondence qual
high-resolution, proportionally spa
Font provides fonts in sizes from
Roman, Bold, Italic, Script, Old En
low-cost Epson (MX, RX, FX) and
Font is an easy-to-use software pa
compatible systems; no special hardv

Actual sample produced by an MX-80 and Fancy Font.

Incredible Printing Machine

Your Epson printer is going to get even better. *Fancy Font* can make it into an incredible printing machine. The *Fancy Font System* is a software program that turns the bits and bytes generated by your computer into over 30 font sets in sizes from 8 to 40 points that can be printed on any Epson MX80 with Graftrax, Epson FX or RX printer, or Gemini 10X printer.

Fancy Font styles include Roman, Bold, Italic, Script, Old English, and more. In addition, custom forms, invoices, labels, signs, foreign languages, mathematical notations, view graphs, resumes, newsletters, brochures, complete manuals, invitations, place cards, and high-resolution, proportionally spaced, letter quality business and personal letters can all be printed on your Epson printer with *Fancy Font* at the helm. *Fancy Font* is a product of SoftCraft Inc. You may have seen SoftCraft's national ads. They are printed with *Fancy Font* on an Epson printer. The ad is powerful visual medicine. The list price for the fully documented *Fancy Font System 2.0* is $180. Central's price is only $149. Order *Fancy Font* today and add an amazing sparkle of creativity to all your printed materials. Please indicate name and model of your printer when ordering. *Fancy Font* will make your Epson printer and Valdocs or CP/M word processor come alive. It's magical.

Stop Tearing Up Your Disk Drives

If you're using your Epson as a printer buffer instead of a computer, you may be tearing up your disk drives. Disk drives are mechanical devices, they are often the first parts of a computer to go sour. No wonder. Everytime you feed your printer a file, the drives whirl madly until the printer has accepted the entire file. Sometimes this takes a long, long time.

The Epson can dump a file faster than a printer can accept it. So, it's great to have a device that will catch the file, quiet the disk drives, and give the computer back to you.

Photo: MicroSpooler 64 K P-P

If you're tired of hearing your disk drives grind down, you need a printer buffer. The best performance and price buffer on the market is the Consolink MicroSpooler. This computer-like tool absorbs files as fast as your computer can send them, and then patiently feeds or spools them to your printer a few bytes at a time.

CONSOLINK MICROSPOOLERS

Description	List	Price
64 K P-P	$315.00	$279.95
64 K P-S	$343.00	$299.95
64 K S-S	$349.00	$299.95
64 K S-P	$339.00	$299.95
Cables	$ 54.00	$ 29.00

64 K	Stores and spools files as large as 64 K.
P-P	Parallel Epson port to parallel printer port.
P-S	Parallel Epson port to serial printer port.
S-S	Serial Epson port to serial printer port.
S-P	Serial Epson port to parallel printer port.
Cables	Set includes one special male to female connector and one male to male connector. — Please tell us model and type of printer you're connecting to your computer.

Includes these unique features:

- Status digital readout
- Multiple copy function
- Temporary pause function
- Sleek internal power supply
- Comprehensive self test routine
- Slimline attractive casing
- Front panel reset
- 12 month factory guarantee

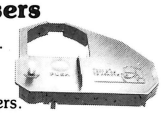
The MicroSpooler is an intelligent, feature-packed buffer. It is easy to install and operate. Merely place it between your computer and printer, then connect it with two cables, and feed files as large as 64K within seconds to your letter quality or dot matrix printer. The instant the transfer is complete, you can operate your computer again. The MicroSpooler does the rest.

The MicroSpooler comes in a variety of configurations. You can link your Epson to any popular printer with two inexpensive cables. Please check our low MicroSpooler prices. You won't find a more feature-packed or reasonably priced spooler around. Try the MicroSpooler of your choice for 15 days. If you are not completely satisfied with your purchase, return it for an immediate full refund. Your Epson deserves this attractive and useful accessory. Order a compact and powerful MicroSpooler today.

Lockable Diskette Defender

Handsome, sturdy, smoke-tinted acrylic tray holds 70 Epson-size diskettes. Flip-up lid keeps out dust, debris, and moisture, and locks securely to guard your important work. Comes with 7 dividers with index tabs for easy filing and to keep floppies upright to prevent bending, warping, and scratching. Tough and secure metal lock never comes in contact with diskettes because it is enclosed in a special plastic housing. Super value at $22.95 for one, or $21.00 each if you buy 2 or more. Keep prying eyes and sticky fingers away from your data. Order today.

LQ 1500 Users



Compare and save. Epson's LQ 1500 ribbon gives you 3,000,000 characters. Our top quality LQ 1500 ribbon produces 4,500,000 characters. Epson's list price is $17.50 per ribbon. Our price is $49 for box of six ribbons. In stock. Order today. Complete Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Central Toll Free Order Desk

800-533-8049 USA
800-624-5628 CA

CP/M Prod. Description	List	Central
QX-10 Software		
ASHTON TATE		
dBase II	$495.00	$368.00
ATI TRAINING DISKS		
CP/M	$ 39.95	$ 37.00
MBasic	$ 39.95	$ 37.00
Multiplan	$ 75.00	$ 62.00
SuperCalc	$ 75.00	$ 62.00
Wordstar	$ 75.00	$ 62.00
BORLAND INTERNA		
Turbo Pascal 2.0	$ 49.95	$ 47.00
Turbo Toolbox	$ 49.95	$ 47.00
Turbo Gift Pak	$ 99.95	$ 92.00
CDE SOFTWARE		
Checks & Balances	$ 74.95	$ 69.95
CHUCK ATKINSON PROGRAMS		
Quick Check Plus AR	$195.00	$155.00
Retail Inventory +Q Register	$395.00	$299.00
CONTINENTAL SOFTWARE		
Home Accountant Plus	$ 99.95	$ 79.95
DIGITAL MARKETING		
Bibliography	$ 99.00	$ 89.00
Hyper Typer	$ 29.95	$ 26.00
Milestone	$250.00	$199.00
Notebook	$150.00	$109.00
EAGLE ENTERPRISES		
Citation	$185.00	$155.00
General Ledger	$395.00	$175.00
FYI, INC.		
FYI 3000	$395.00	$295.00
SuperFile — with Sort 'n Merge	$195.00	$145.00
INFOCOM		
Zork I	$ 39.95	$ 37.00
Zork II & III each	$ 44.95	$ 42.95
PlanetFall	$ 39.95	$ 37.00
Deadline	$ 49.95	$ 47.00
LEXISOFT		
SpellBinder	$495.00	$299.00
MICROPRO		
WordStar	$495.00	$295.00
WordStar Professional	$695.00	$450.00
MICROSOFT		
MultiPlan	$195.00	$155.00
MBasic Compiler	$395.00	$299.00
MICROSOLUTIONS		
Uniform	$ 69.95	$ 59.95
Reads & writes 52+ other computer formats		
MYCROFT LABS		
Mite	$150.00	$ 99.00
OASIS SYSTEMS		
The Word Plus	$150.00	$105.00
Punctuation and Style	$125.00	$ 99.00
PEARLSOFT		
Personal Pearl	$295.00	$225.00
QUIC-N-EASY PROD.		
Q-Pro-4	$595.00	$395.00
with multikey file indexing		
SAN FRANCISCO COMP		
Power!	$169.00	$115.00
DocuPower!	$169.00	$115.00
SOFTWARE TOOLWORKS		
MyChess	$ 34.95	$ 32.00
Word Wiggle	$ 29.95	$ 28.00
Eliza	$ 24.95	$ 23.00
SORCIM		
SuperCalc 2	$295.00	$235.00
STAR SYSTEMS		
The Accounting Partner (TAP)	$395.00	$285.00
Star Systems 1, Intergrated	$795.00	$645.00
Upgrade TAP to SS1 Intergrated	$400.00	$360.00
T/MAKER COMPANY		
T/Maker III	$275.00	$199.00
T/Maker Intergrated	$495.00	$379.00
with database manager		
Hardware		
TITAN TECHNOLOGIES NEW		
QX-PC 192k MSDOS	$595.00	$439.00
QX-PC 256k MSDOS	$670.00	$559.00
Supplies		
Dysan DSDD diskettes	10/box	$ 34.00
QX-10 User's Guide, Hansen	$ 17.95	$ 15.95
Epson and ComRex ribbons		Call

Prices, specifications, and offers subject to change without notice.

"Now I'm going to computerize my checkbook"

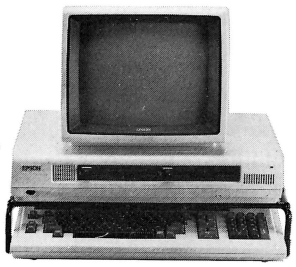
Computers crush numbers. It's that simple. If you're not using your computer to manage your money, you're missing a chance to put pencil-sharp accounting skills at your fingertips. Chuck Atkinson's **Quick Check** software program is a home and small business money manager so easy to use that if you can push a key it will help you computerize your checkbook.

Quick Check tells you exactly where your hard-earned money goes. *Quick Check* lets you set up your own expense and income codes, or use built-in codes, so you can start entering checks and deposits immediately. You don't have to know about accounting to use *Quick Check*. This common sense program gives you instant fingertip access to a wide range of information about your income and expenses. Single keystroke commands help you pay bills, keep track of deductible and non-deductible items, correct mistakes, change dates, and reconcile your checkbook. This program even prints checks and addresses them automatically. *Quick Check* is written in CB80 native code. It is fast, accurate, and forgiving. No slowdown for sorting.

Home and small business accounting can't get any easier than this. Please don't spend another moment thinking about computerizing your checkbook. You can start getting that checkbook in shape now. The list price of *Quick Check* is $95. Central's current price is $79. Order today.

Attention: The rewards of using *Quick Check* include saving time, money, work, discomfort, and worry about your money. *Quick Check* is absolutely the easiest full-featured money manager, check printer, and budget organizer available. Bar none.

Perfect Epson Stand



Simple, strong, sturdy, safe. These words describe an attractive stand that provides a perfect spot to place your Epson computer and monitor on. This stand is made from rounded, steel rods covered with a thick, shiny, soft, black polymer material that protects your Epson and table top from scratches. Unlike flat wood or acrylic panels used in other stands, the tough supporting rods of the Smart Stand (TM) do not obstruct air flow. In fact, since your Epson is lifted off the table top and fully supported by this stand, air flows freely all around your computer to help keep it cool. When you're finished computing, you can slide the keyboard completely under the stand to create a working area on your desk. Incidentally, lifting your QX-10 off the table top makes it much easier to insert and remove diskettes out of the disk drives. The Epson Smart Stand is a super value at $34.95. Try it for 15 days. If not completely satisfied, send it back for a full refund. Matching 80 or 132 column printer stands are only $26.95. Order today.

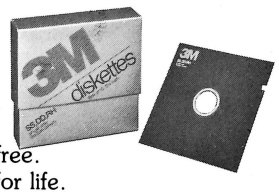
Public Domain Pak

In 1983 and 1984 the folks at PeopleTalk Associates set out to find the best of the free public domain programs. They spent thousands of dollars and literally hundreds of hours contacting CP/M bulletin boards, downloading software, and then going through reams of computer programs. Their diligent sifting produced the 70 precious gems offered in Central's Super Public Domain Software Pak. D.Com, Unerase, Bio.Com, RPip.Com, Adventure.Com, Food.Com, Chess, and dozens of other valuable programs can all be yours to use and enjoy.

If you want to share in the free software bonanza but don't have the time to search through piles of useless software to find a few precious gems, this Public Domain Pak is for you. The list price of *The Free Software Handbook* is $17.95. Central's price is $15.95. However, QX-10 users can now get both *The Free Software Handbook* and all 70 programs reviewed in the book for $49. Save yourself the expense, and time and effort of compiling these programs. Where else can you get almost six dozen programs for less than 75 cents each and get a book that tells you how to use them too? Order today.

The Free Software Handbook is published by PeopleTalk Associates. The authors looked at thousands of programs. They challenge readers to find better ones. It can't be done.

Save Money. Save Worry.



3M diskettes.
Certified
100% error-free.
Guaranteed for life.
Tested 327 ways.
They work like a charm on Epsons.

Factory sealed. Best data diskette made.
3M — *One less thing to worry about.*

No minimums — No limits

Box of 10 DS-DD QX-10 diskettes: **$24.00**
3M Head Cleaning Kits for QX-10s: $21.95
3M DeskTop 24"x 26" Anti-Static Mats: $44

CENTRAL COMPUTER PRODUCTS

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Fillmore, California 93015
(805) 524-4189

Dear Central,

Please send me the items listed below. I want fast friendly service. If I have ordered SmartKey II, don't forget to send me a free copy of *Screen Smarts, The Computer Tamer's Guide*. My check, money order, or credit card number is enclosed. Thanks.

Description	Price
Sub-Total	
CA Resident 6% Tax	
Postage & Handling	$ 3.00
Total	$

FIRM MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ORDER WITH CONFIDENCE

☐ Navy blue ☐ Sand
☐ Send free catalog ☐ Send free Screen Smarts
☐ Check enclosed ☐ Money Order enclosed

☐ Visa/Mastercard # _____

Exp. Date _____ Sig. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Visa and Mastercard phone orders accepted. **Call Toll Free.**
To order by mail use coupon, letter, or photo copy. Thank you.

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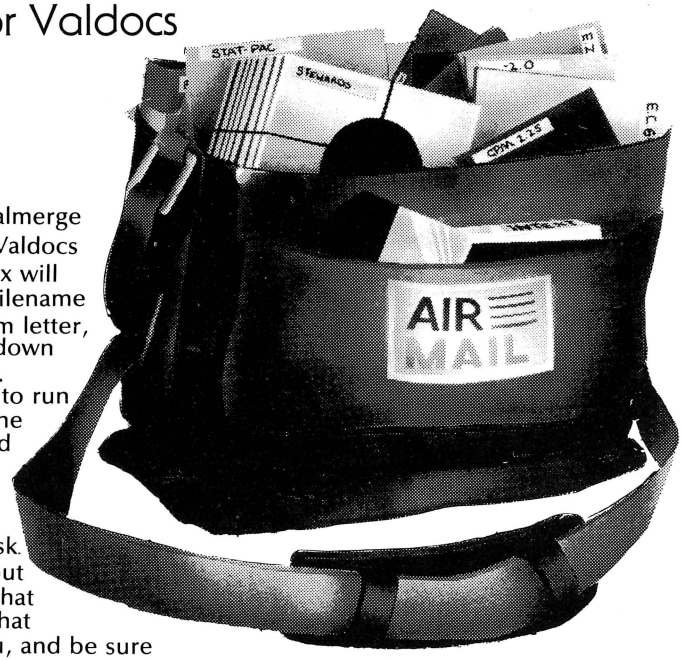
Using ValMerge

A public Domain MailMerge Utility for Valdocs

by Allen Howell



What is a mailmerge program? It is a program that allows you to combine the contents of a mailing list data base into a form letter. Let's say you have 100 names and addresses in your mailing list data base program, and you want to send a general, yet personalized letter to them all.

Valmerge allows you to define variables into your letter which correspond with the contents of the mailing list, such as name, address, or any other information which is contained in your data base. When running Valmerge, each time a letter is printed, it will pull the next record in your mailing list and print the information directly where you specified in the form letter.

Valmerge includes two other utility programs to enable it to work with Valdocs. These utilities are called VALINDEX.COM, and DEVAL.COM. After creating your form letter on Valdocs, you must then convert the Valdocs document into an ASCII file. This is done using DEVAL.COM, which strips away all the control codes and unfortunately, the special typestyles that you have included into your document. So, when creating your form letter, do NOT use any of the Valdocs "typestyle" keys.

Before you can run the DEVAL.COM program, first you must find the "true" filename of your Valdocs document so you may specify the proper file when running DEVAL and VALMERGE. All this just to do a mailmerge you say? Well, hang in there, it's easy after you have done it once! Store your Valdocs form letter with the normal Valdocs process (using the STORE key). After it is stored press the MENU key and select <M>enu of Applications" for the right drive. Select VALINDEX.COM, and press <RETURN> twice (of course, we are assuming you have already transferred these Valmerge utilities onto your Valdocs data disk). Valindex will display the "true" filename of your Valdocs form letter, so write this name down and keep it nearby. Now you are ready to run DEVAL, so press the MENU key again and select "<M>enu of Applications" again and select DEVAL. COM. DEVAL will ask the name of the input file, so now enter that series of numbers that VALINDEX gave you, and be sure to enter the ".VAL" extension on the filename. Next, DEVAL will ask you the name of the output file. Enter something easy to remember, like LETTER. An extension is not necessary. DEVAL will now transform your Valdocs document into an ASCII file. Why must it be transformed into an ASCII file, you ask? VALMERGE cannot make any sense of a stock Valdocs document. If you were to do a "TYPE filename.ext" from TPM on the Valdocs document, you will see what looks like garbage and strange graphic characters that only Valdocs can decipher. DEVAL transforms it into a file which you can really be read if your were to do a "TYPE" command on it.

After the Valdocs document has been "de-valed," you are finally ready to run VALMERGE. With your mailing list data base on your Valdocs data disk, again, press the MENU key, select "<M>enu of Applications" for the right drive, and select VALMERGE.COM. VALMERGE will ask how many fields are in your merge file, or in other words, how many lines are there per record. For example, lets assume your mailing list data base looks like this:

```
Jane Doe
1017 Broadway
New York, NY 10049

John Smith
555 Main Street
Chicago, IL 60619
```

Here, the file contain 3 fields. One for name, one for address, and the last one for city, state, and zip. City, state and zip are considered one field because it is all on the same line. Next VALMERGE ask you what the name of the merge letter is. Enter the name you chose when DEVAL asked you the name of the output file. Then VALMERGE will ask you the name of the merge data list. Again, enter the name of your mailing list data file, and also specify the drive designation if it is not on the "B:" drive. Lastly, VALMERGE will ask you if you are using single sheet or continuous output on your printer. Select the appropriate choice. Assuming your printer is ready, and

you have successfully completed this entire process, the printer should be printing your letters.

By no means is this article meant to provide complete instructions on using VALMERGE and it's utilities. Each VALMERGE program is accompanied by a document file which gives specific instructions for each particular program. This article simply combines the basic functions of each program as an introduction to its operations. In any case, be sure to read all the .DOC files for each program, and along with this article, you should soon be creating your own personalized form letters!

Notes on using with Peachtree Mailing List Manager

VALMERGE works well with Peachtree Mailing List Manager, and with many other commercial data base programs. If you use Peachtree, simply produce a mailing as you normally would if you were to print mailing labels (single wide). You may also be selective about what to search for, or sort however you wish. The only major difference is that you must specify that you desire the output in a disk file. Specify "D" for the output option, along with the filename. After Peachtree has created the file, and assuming you have completed "de-valing" your Valdocs document, simply specify the filename you created from Peachtree as your merge data list when you run VALMERGE. Also, make sure you specify the proper drive that the mailing list file is on.

How to obtain VALMERGE, VALINDEX, and DEVAL.

These three programs along with their respective documentation files, can be found on some of the EpsonNet RBBS/RTPM boards around the country. If your local board does not have them, we will be including these programs on our "Disk of the Month".

These utilities were written by Joe DeRosa. The documentation files for these program utilities were written by Mike Morra. They both work at Epson West, an Epson America Inc. Distributors. Thanks Joe and Mike. ■

Tape of the Month

The third EpsonConnection Tape of the Month (TOM3) contains the following files:

EPXMD3.COM	- A version of EPX740.COM configured for the internal modem of the PX.
CPMPOWER.COM- CPMPOWER.DOC	A handy utility taking up less than 8K.
NI.COM	- A drive directory utility.

To order the Tape of the Month, please send $10.00 to: The EpsonConnection, P.O. Box 14027, Detroit MI 48214, Attn: Tape Service Department. Please be sure to specify the number of the tape desired.

User Tip - Note on Epson Printer Ribbons

by Jack Balderston

My FX-80, after 15 months hard labor, got weak in printing with its two descender pins to the point that my "y" looked like a "v" and the "g" and "p" like an "o." It went in for repair to Epson West, taking 9 days (quite good) and $160 (quite bad). When it came back, the following message was attached. It is reproduced here for those who may believe they are saving money on ribbons.

"Text file 111-79"
subj: USE OF NON-EPSON RIBBONS IN MX, FX, AND RX PRINTER

"Epson's ribbons contain a special ink formula, which includes a lubrication agent. This lubricant provides for smooth operation of the head wires and places minimal stress on the solenoid windings and driver transistors, which move the head wires. Alan Marsh and Jim Husting have noticed that non-Epson ribbons have recently been appearing in failed printers and are apparently the primary cause for those failures. The ink used in the head wires, which in turn puts abnormal stress on solenoid windings and driver transistors, causing failure of one or both of these items. Transistor 06 (bottom /Pin 0 Driver), is failing most often. Users should be cautioned against using non-Epson approved ribbons. Hubert Fillmore / Engineering Support

As you might guess, the $160 was to replace the print head and transistor 06. I had used 5 ribbon cassettes, all bought either through VIP, Computer PX, Advanced Computer Products, or Newport Stationers. None had ribbon cartridges bearing the Epson mark; none had any indentifying name referring to manufacturer. So beware. Saving a few dollars on ribbons may be an expensive experience!

Reprinted from "The Help Key," (Dec.1984). Newsletter of the Epson Computer Club of America, in Yorba Linda, CA.

■

Correction Note: The listing in the December issue for the Westside Users Group address was wrong, we would appreciate a member of the group letting us know the correct address.

New Product section, page 46 of the January issue. **FILEBASE** for the QX-10 $100; the manufacturer should read: EWPD Software Inc., P.O. Box 40283, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

New Products

QX MULTED
CP/M $59.00

MULTED is a program for searching, editing, printing, and manipulating text in multiple files in a consistent and easy manner. Command files are allowed for frequent operations. Wild cards and conditional operations increase the capabilities of the program.

COMPU-DRAW
1227 Goler House
Rochester, NY 14620

QX FONT
TP/M $25.00

This menu-driven program unleashes all the power of the typestyle capabilities of the Epson printers, and more. You can combine any of the typestyles to create new ones. Prints a sample upon request. Also prints 1 to 4 lines of entered text in any typestyle.

Custom Computing
1841 Lincoln
North Bend, OR 97459

QX WP-HELPER
CP/M $29.95

This collection of ten programs is designed to function as utilities for any CP/M word processor. Functions included are the ability to sort a MailMerge file on ZIP code or last name, finding of any unmatched printer control codes, and word or paragraph counting.

Elliam Associates
24000 Bessemer St.
Woodland Hills, CA 91367

PHX TRAVELMASTER
$60-83.00

These travel cases come in four different sizes, and with two types of foam interiors, allow you to create custom shapes by hand. Options include removable hinges and a carrying strap.

Southern Cases, Inc.
P.O. Box 28147
Raleigh, NC 27611

QX FREEWAY
TP/M $25.00

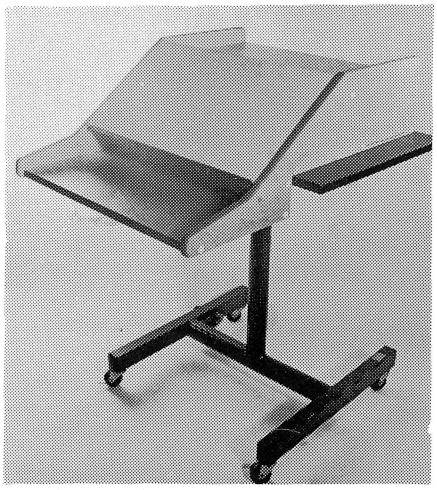
This is an exiting, fast action driving game. See how many miles you can complete. Gets harder as you go. The disk contains 3 variations of the game, including one with mile posts and growing obstacles.

Custom Computing
1841 Lincoln
North Bend, OR 97459

QX MATH
CP/M $29.95

This program has instruction and drill from beginning math through algebra.

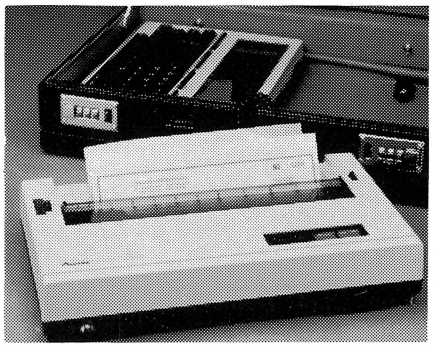
ORANGE MICROWARE
4418 East Chapman Street, Suite 311
Orange, CA 92669



QX Computer-Mate I
$99.95

This is a computer console of furniture grade quality. It is constructed of superior, Finnish White Birch plywood. It features a removable copy board, positioned to hold copy in front of the operator, as well as a keyboard shelf built to place the keys at the correct 26 inch height. The unit rests easily on any horizontal surface.

Computer-Mates
10867 Fruitland Drive
Studio City, CA 91604



PHX ThinWrite
$429

This portable, battery powered printer uses a 9X9 pin dot matrix draft mode to produce copy at 50 characters per second, and an optional 18X23 matrix to produce near letter quality output at 10 characters per second. The bidirectional logic seeking print head can produce super and subscripts, doublestrike, underlining, enlarged, condensed and emphasized output.

Axonix Corporation
417 Wakara Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

QX UNERA
CP/M $29.00

UNERA guarantees recovery of erased files, if used immediately after the erasure. It can handling wild card characters in file names. Clear messages inform you whether recovery was complete, partial, or unsuccessful.

COMPU-DRAW
1227 Goler House
Rochester, NY 14620

QX SUMS-UPLOAD
$25.00

This is a touch typing tutor designed to improve speed and accuracy and teach beginning skills. Timed/scored drills and automatic scorekeeping option on disk.

Orange MicroWare
4418 East Chapman Street, Suite 311
Orange, CA 92669

This is your BIG chance!

The first response from each state can win:

A free Disk of The Month
or
A free Tape of The Month

Don't miss this opportunity to contribute.

Your *Feed-Back* will help us meet your needs.

I would like to see more: _____

What I find the most helpful is: _____

What I find least helpful is: _____

Magazine Content is:
- ☐ Too hard
- ☐ Too easy
- ☐ Fine
- ☐ Other _____

Your Computer Use:
- ☐ TP/M
- ☐ CP/M
- ☐ MSDOS
- ☐ MFCPM
- ☐ Other _____

Wordprocessing Use:
- ☐ Valdocs
- ☐ WordStar
- ☐ PeachText
- ☐ Other _____

Spreadsheet Use:
- ☐ PeachCalc
- ☐ Lotus 1-2-3
- ☐ Other _____

Hardware Used:
- ☐ QX
- ☐ PX
- ☐ HX-40
- ☐ HX-20
- ☐ QXPC

Hard Disk:
- ☐ Comfiler
- ☐ QuCeS
- ☐ Bi-Tech
- ☐ Cameo
- ☐ Other _____

Printers:
- ☐ Epson
- ☐ Comrex
- ☐ Other _____

Modems:
- ☐ Comrex
- ☐ Hayes
- ☐ Prometheus
- ☐ Other _____

Plotter:
- ☐ Epson
- ☐ Comscriber
- ☐ Other _____

Primarily Used For:
- ☐ Personal
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Telecommunications
- ☐ Word Processing
- ☐ Graphics
- ☐ Accounting
- ☐ Spreadsheet
- ☐ Games
- ☐ Programming
- ☐ Other _____

Type of Business Used For:
- ☐ Writer
- ☐ Medical/Dental
- ☐ Sales
- ☐ Engineer
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Consulting
- ☐ Legal
- ☐ Human Services
- ☐ Government Services
- ☐ Other _____

Your Education:
- ☐ High School
- ☐ 2 yrs. college
- ☐ 4 yrs. college
- ☐ Graduate degree

Age:
- ☐ Under 20
- ☐ 20-30
- ☐ 30-40
- ☐ 40-50
- ☐ over 50

Sex:
- ☐ male
- ☐ female

Annual Income level:
- ☐ under 20,000
- ☐ 20-30,000
- ☐ 30-40,000
- ☐ 40-50,000
- ☐ over 50,000

How many computers do you own:
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ _____

How many printers do you own:
- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ _____

Estimate of $ spent on computer equipment in 1984:
- ☐ under $1500
- ☐ $1500-5000
- ☐ $5,000-10,000
- ☐ over $10,000

Additional products you plan to purchase:
- ☐ Letter quality printer
- ☐ Dot matrix printer
- ☐ Plotter
- ☐ Computer
- ☐ Hard Disk Drive
- ☐ Modem
- ☐ Software

This was your first computer:
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Would you recommend purchase of an Epson Desktop computer to a friend?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

an Epson portable computer?:
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Have you responded to advertising in our magazine?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Did you purchase any products through the advertising?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Method of response:
- ☐ Sent in Quick Response Card
- ☐ Called
- ☐ Visited dealer to see product
- ☐ Wrote

How did you find out about us?
- ☐ Dealer
- ☐ Direct mail
- ☐ User Group
- ☐ Epson
- ☐ Rising Star
- ☐ Online Service
- ☐ RBBS
- ☐ Another User
- ☐ Other _____

Number, in years, of computer experience:
- ☐ 1-3
- ☐ 3-5
- ☐ more than 5

How important is color computer capability to you:
- ☐ Not important
- ☐ Would spend $1000 to add it on
- ☐ Would spend $1500 to add it on

If I win, I would like to receive:
- ☐ Disk of the Month EC # _____
- ☐ Tape of the Month TOM # _____

Fold and Staple

THANK YOU

Please place peel-off address label from cover here.

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COMPANY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ (Home ☐ Business ☐)

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Rx for PX

by Bob Hermann

SERIAL TO PARALLEL CONVERTERS

The lack of a parallel output on the Geneva has caused many to seek a method of setting it up to work with a parallel printer. One method is to buy a serial board for the printer, but this is somewhat self-defeating, since installation of such a board will limit use of the printer. A more practical option is an external serial to parallel conversion device. There are several such mechanisms available. These gadgets all attach to the 725 cable (or the 715 cable on the HX) either directly or with the aid of a male to female converter. The opposite end has a Centronics parallel output to attach directly to the printer. Between is the conversion 'box', which generally is about 3"X 4"X 1½". All these converters require an A/C power source.

The first serial-to-parallel converter is from Express-Line, 2485 Chesnut, Suite 306, San Francisco CA 94123. It requires the male to female converter and sells for $85.95 plus shipping charges. Baud rates up to 19.2 K are accommodated and changes are accomplished by removing the cover of the converter 'box' (attached with four screws) and moving a jumper located inside.

The next converter comes from Tigertronics, 1501-B Pine Street, P.O. Box 2535, Oxnard CA 93030. It is exactly like the converter described above, except no male to female converter is required. It also retails for $89.95 plus shipping.

The final converter we shall describe is my favorite, mainly because there is an external switch for accomplishing baud rate changes. It does not require the male to female converter, and it can accommodate baud rates up to 9600 baud. It is also somewhat cheaper than the others, retailing for $75. It may be purchased from Computer Professionals, Inc., 305 Read Street, Portland MA 04103, or from Boteck Instruments, 4949 New Hampshire, Utica MI 48087.

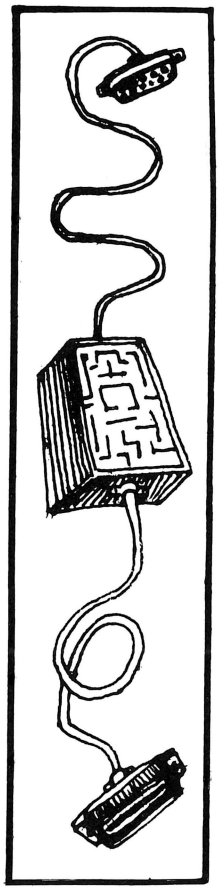
One final note on converters. Axonix offers optional parallel to serial converters similar to those described above for use with their printers. These units are unique in that they are designed to derive their power from the Axonix printer, so that no external A/C power source is necessary.

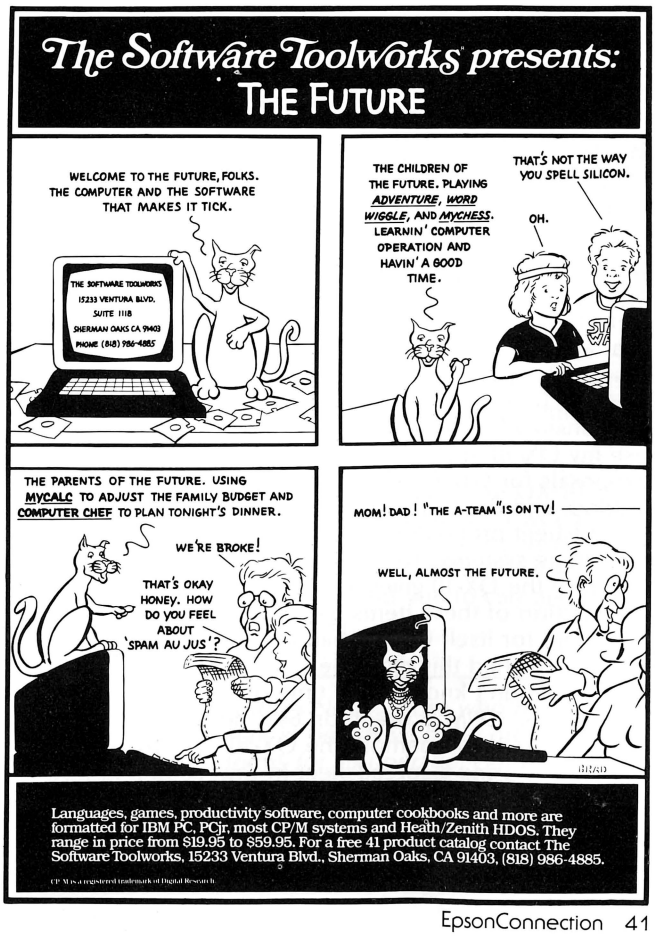
Multi Function Unit

The PX-8 Multi Function Units (MFU) are finally available. Unfortunately, though, their availability has caused a controversy. PX-8 units with serial numbers less than 200000 require an updated BIOS ROM in order for the computer to recognize the additional ROM socket the MUF offers. As this issue went to print Epson announced that the upgrade ROM will be FREE and may be installed at any Epson "Authorized Service Center."

It should also be noted that the only communications software currently available capable of accessing the PX's internal modem is the commercially available Geneva Connection, and a public domain version of EPX740.COM called EPXMD3.COM. (see this month's Tape of the Month).

■

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CP/M is a registered trademark of Digital Research.

QX-PC2

A Co-Processor Board for the QX-10

by Jim Markevitch

SPEC SPOT

Product: QX-PC2
Type: MS-DOS™ Co-Processor Board
Computer: Epson QX-10
Operating System: CP/M B2.20, CP/M B2.25
Price:

Board	Price	2nd Aux. Board
192k	$595	$249
256k	$670	$399
384k	$895	
512k	$1045	

Ease of Use: Generally easy to use; however, difficult when compared to Valdocs.
Performance: Good
Documentation: The Set-up portion of the documentation is based on CP/M B 2.25, the rest is good.
Summary: An internal board for the QX-10 to let it run IBM software.
Manufacturer:
Titan Technologies, Inc.
310 West Ann Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

While making a call to the Epson Connection RBBS one morning my friendly sysop came on line and asked if I would write an article for them on the new QX-PC2 MS-DOS Co-Processor from Titan. Keep in mind that until a year ago I couldn't spell computer much less use one. I work for General Telephone Company of Wisconsin which is a part of GTE. I use my QX-10 to prepare sales proposals for GTE customers using Valdocs and the PeachCalc spreadsheet program to price out telephone systems. The speed and accuracy the QX-10 gives in the preparation of these items has more than paid for itself in less than the year I've owned this machine.

What I didn't know at the time of purchase is, CP/M is based on 64k, no matter how much memory the QX-10 has. When using a spreadsheet in the CP/M mode for instance, the spreadsheet itself uses about 26k, and CP/M plus the PeachCalc overhead use about 10k, which left 28k for my use. As anyone who uses spreadsheets know "that aint much." I needed more memory so I could make my monster spreadsheet.

The QX-PC from Titan was available but expensive and rumors of a new QX-PC2 board with better compatibility and a lower price tag would be available in fall. The answer to my dreams was at hand, a "monster spreadsheet!" I kept in touch with the friendly people at Titan and I am proud to say I was one of the first kids on the block to have the new improved QX-PC2 MS-DOS Co-Processors Boards. The 256k version direct from Titan cost $670.00.

IBM vs TITAN QXPC2

Function Tested	IBM	QXPC2
BASIC A for/next loop (10,000 times)	11.46	10.83
screen fill test	6.71	12.92
time to load a 68k .COM program	8.16	18.92
write 100 records from disk	6.36	8.55
simple math operations test	20.56	19.40

If you are going to run Lotus 1-2-3, Framework or one of the other heavy-duty programs you will need 384k to 512k of memory to do it justice. They cost $895.00 and $1,045.00 respectively. Now I know what all of you out there are saying. Hey bunky, I can get a better deal than that from Joe Blow's all-night computer store. Well you're right, you can! But and this is a big but, be sure you are getting the new QX-PC2 board and be sure they have the memory chips from Titan. Titan buys memory chips in large quantities, making it possible to use a higher grade chip; about 3 to 4 grades higher, according to John Morgan of Titan. I call many RBBS's and two of the hottest topics are cost and problems with the QX-PC boards. The gist of all this is "ya get what ya pay for" and "it only cost a little more to go first class."

Three days after placing the order a box came from the UPS man and I had the new QX-PC2 in my hands. Upon opening the package the first thing that catches the eye is the size of the board itself. It's small! Even though it really is two boards in one, the first being the processor itself and the second the memory board, it all fits in one expansion slot. If you order the larger memory configuration it will occupy two slots.

Along with the processor you'll receive a Start Up Guide, an MS-DOS user guide, a plastic function key overlay, some adhesive key labels and, two floppy disks. The function key overlay is designed to fit the new QX-10 keyboard. That is the one with the "EDIT" key, so if you have the old keyboard, 2 minutes and an Exacto knife will allow the overlay to fall into place. If you have an extra $225.00 you don't know what to do with, buy the new keyboard. The adhesive key labels take a little more patience but I guess you have to put them on if you want to be a real MS-DOS'er.

Upon reading the Start Up Guide I learned a new word, CP/M Release B2.25! It seems while we've all been screaming at Epson for Valdocs 2.0, they slipped a new CP/M version out. The Start Up Guide says you have to have B2.25 to run the preboot disk. The truth is 2.20 will work just fine as long as you do not have a Comfiler hard disk. There is a new format and copydisk program on 2.25 so the instructions are a bit confusing if you

don't have it.

After making a copy of the preboot disk and loading the system tracks onto it, Titan recommends that AUTO BOOT be enabled and the DATE & TIME option be disabled. This is done in the setup program. This will automatically boot the program that wakes-up the co-processor and tests it. When testing is done you will be prompted to insert the MS-DOS disk and hit any key. If you have the old keyboard DON'T hit just any old key, press the **"Q"** key this will tell the processor that you have the keyboard without the "EDIT" key.

The first time I loaded the MS-DOS disk an ERROR CODE 00 appeared on the screen. I tried this several times and always had the same result. I called Titan and had two new disks in my hands in 2 days. It turned out the preboot disk tested the co-processor ok, but it did not wake it up! The new disk took care of that problem. Now I'm ready to do some MS-DOSing! Friends I'm here to tell you right now, Epson has spoiled us with Valdocs and the Hasci Keyboard. MS-DOS is not a user friendly program to do the simple things we all take for granted. If you are not careful you can loose stuff! Here are some neat little commands I did learn. "FORMAT B:/S" will copy system tracks as well as format a disk. "COPY A:*.* B:" will allow you to copy a program on to a formatted system disk without getting a "FORMAT ERROR."

I now use PeachText 5000 which is a integrated package from Peachtree Software Inc. Included in the package are a Word Processor, Spreadsheet, List Manager, Thesaurus and Spelling Proofreader. As I said earlier, the spreadsheet is one of the bread and butter tools of my job. I now have about 187k of memory on a clean spreadsheet. This meets or exceeds the requirements of even the most taxing spreadsheet.

The QX-PC2 will run all the "BIG" name software such as Lotus 1-2-3, Symphony and, Frame work. Titan has published a list of tested software which appeared in their ad in the EpsonConnection (Dec.). I called the folks at Titan and asked if the list would be expanded as rumored. They indicated that they are working on a list of programs that do not run on the new QX-PC2. So far Sargon III and Flight Simulator are the only programs that don't work properly. I purchased Sargon III and it does work. The only problem I have with the game is the auto-move by the computer does not work, nor does the clock. For all you chess freaks out there, don't let this stop you from getting the program. It will give you a run for your money. The machine usually beats me in 28 moves or less.

Who needs the QX-PC2? Anyone who has a large spreadsheet, wordprocessing or, database requirements will find this new board just the ticket. We all have a lot of money tied up in equipment and with the simple addition of a "card" we can be sure our Epson QX-10's will meet the needs of the future.

Titan indicated that Epson will manufacture their own MS-DOS board when the QX-16 is introduced. How this will compare with the QX-PC2 is yet to be seen.

To summarize, the QX-PC2 is an inexpensive alternative to trading your QX-10 in on a "newer" technology. It is a tool that once mastered will expand the QX-10 to a new level of computing. I would be lost without it. Follow the instructions carefully when installing and setting up the PC2 and you to can be an MS-DOS'er.

Editor's Note: Those who have already sent in boards with the proper RMA forms for an upgrade, can expect Titan to ship the upgrade boards about 4 to 6 weeks after their receipt date. ■

Disk of the Month

EC-7 This volume contains CP/M utilities, one TPM utility, and music programs. Note that most, if not all of the CP/M programs will also run on TPM; however, the @.SYS TPM program will only execute on TPM. Most of the utilities are combined into a library file (.LBR) for easier handling and reference. These public domain programs are provided on a quality diskette and the price does include postage and handling. An entire listing of the previous 'Disk-of-the Month' offerings has been published in our December issue. Please be sure to indicate the disk order number (EC-7) with your check. To order the 'Disk-of-the-Month', please send $15 to the EpsonConnection, P.O. Box 14027, Detroit, MI 48214, Attn: Disk Service Dept.

There are 5 library and 3 .COM (or .SYS) files. Each are described below:

VALMERGE.LBR	-	Contains 3 programs and two documentation files. VALMERGE enables you to perform "Mailmerge" functions with Valdocs files.
MUSIC.LBR	-	Contains 1 program, 1 documentation file, and several music files. This program plays music on your QX-10.
LEDIT.LBR	-	Contains 2 programs, and 1 documentation file. The 2 programs are the same, one is the MBASIC source code, the other a compiled version. This program is a simple line editor.
FILMOD2.LBR	-	Contains a series of programs that strip out various control and sequence characters out of files created with word processors. One particular program, called TOVAL.COM, reverses this process. It transforms an ASCII file to Valdocs format. Documentation files are included.
CPMPOWER.LBR	-	Contains one .DOC file and the program. CPMPOWER is an excellent utility that combines many CP/M commands and utilities into one program.
@.SYS	-	The TPM equivalent of the CP/M SUBMIT utility. This one supports manual and batch mode. All files intended to run with @.SYS must have an extension of .SUB. For more information, see your CP/M manual under SUBMIT.COM. Note that @.SYS will work in TPM only.
NULU.COM	-	Library utility program. See article "Dis-N-Data" in our February issue for instructions.
NULU.DOC	-	Documentation for NULU.COM.
DE-LBR.COM	-	A de-library utility. Use this program to extract the files from .LBR file.. To invoke DE-LBR, enter "DE-LBR filename" where "filename" is the name of the .LBR file which you wish to extract files from.

Disclaimer: All of the programs and documentation on this disk are known to be public domain and no warranties are expressed or implied. There are no guarantees with public domain software. All of the programs have been tested on the Epson QX-10, and are known to run. Public Domain programs are programs written by other users, for public use at little or no charge, other than the charge for mailing and materials. Note: We imply no similarity, or advise any comparison, between public domain software and software that is commercially produced.

THINTYPE 80™

by Bob Hermann

SPEC SPOT

Product: Axonix ThinType 80™, Model 80C (Centronics Parallel)
Type: Portable, battery operated, letter-quality printer
Required Peripherals: Serial to parallel converter
Documentation: Preliminary manual
Performance: Good
Price: $395 (with optional serial to parallel converter an additional $110)
Summary: Provides letter quality output anywhere you can operate the HX or PX
Manufacturer:
Axonix Corporation
417 Wakara Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84104

The rechargeable, battery-powered ThinType 80 features true letter-quality impact printing capabilities in a completely portable package. Designed for use with computers like the HX-20 and PX-8, on a single charge it will print up to 15 pages of letter quality print anywhere you can operate the HX or PX. Weighing seven pounds, the ThinType measures 2.48 inches X 8 inches X 11.37 inches. These dimensions allow it to fit in a briefcase with the HX or PX. The internal rechargeable batteries coupled with the INTERNAL A/C adapter/charger enhance the portability of the instrument.

There are some limitations to the output. There is only one character font style available — elite 12 characters per inch. The only controllable printer codes are line feed, carriage return, backspace, and line feed pitch. Also there is no paper out indicator, thereby complicating the output of multiple page documents with the HX. Use with PX Portable WordStar requires use of a WordStar patch program.

With an output of 12 characters per second, the ThinType is as fast as the Comriter I. It is also as noisy as the Comriter, only the unique spinwheel print mechanism sounds more like a popcorn popper than a printer. The output is letter quality; however, not comparable to that of the Comriter. This is owing to the slight, but noticeable, skewness of individual characters.

The unit has two power switches, one for use with battery power and one for A/C power, with respective power light indicators. As with the ThinPrint, the ThinType will power down automatically after two minutes without input, conserving battery power.

The paper release lever and platen paper advance knob constitute the remaining external controls. The rate of paper advance achieved with the paper advance knob is painfully slow, and paper backup requires the use of the paper release lever. The maximum width of paper used is 8½ inches.

The optional serial to parallel converter that accompanied the unit was truly unique. Other similar devices used by this reviewer have required the use of an A/C power source. In keeping with the true portability of the printer, this device has been designed to derive its power from the printer itself, a notable and remarkable feature.

The ink rolls reportedly provide 2,000,000 characters, about 1000 pages of print. Replacements snap into place and cost $6.00. Printer options include a D/C auto charger, a ThinPower pack (an add-on rechargeable, external battery pack to extend the D/C operating time), and nylon, leather, or aluminum carrying cases.

In addition to the external controls listed earlier, there is a switch located in the back that supposedly toggles the auto line feed on and off. However this switch was found to have no effect when used with either the HX or PX. On page 10 of the 12 page preliminary documentation that accompanied the printer is a diagram depicting an internal jumper that apparently accomplishes the same function. We removed the printer cover in an attempt to access this jumper, only to find the board containing it buried under several more components, making access somewhat difficult.

The ThinType 80 is designed to provide portable, letter quality output for portable computers. This objective is admirably met in all phases of the design of the instrument at the sacrifice of some versatility. HX-20 and PX-8 owners will not find a more affordable, truly portable, letter-quality printer.

■

Phone Directory

by Jerry DeBuhr

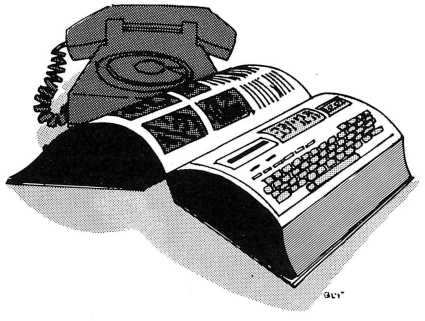
SPEC SPOT

Product: Phone Directory
Type: Business or Personal Use
Computer: Epson HX-20
System: HX-20 with Microcassette Drive
Required Peripherals: None
Price: $25.00 on Standard Cassette, $28.00 on Microcassette
Ease of Use: Easy to use menu-drive
Performance: Excellent
Documentation: Clearly written and includes information for modifying the program for special use situations
Summary: A well developed and enjoyable program offering capabilities far beyond those of the Epson PersonalProductivity's Phone List
Manufacturer:
Omega Engineering
Tim Purpura
901 S. Coit Rd., Suite 104
Richardson, TX 75080
(214) 699-8506

This Phone Directory manages one or more name and telephone number directories of up to 255 entries each. It is a no non-sense software package intended for those who really have need of an extensive directory program. It is ideally suited to business type applications, but can also be set up for as few as 25 entries. This flexibility is designed for limited personal use, allowing ample memory for other programs.

Tim Purpura's Phone Directory is similar to the Phone List program offered as one of ten programs included in the Personal Productivity Software from EPSON. That program only allowed up to 16 entries, and although it did allow for search, edit, and print capabilities, offered no frills.

The Phone Directory is a refinement and enhancement of the basic "Epson like" program. When loaded, the program automatically sets up and maintains the RAM file area necessary for its operation. Convenient features include a "Quick Search" function which is used for quick recall of entries. You need not enter the entire name but need only a single letter or first portion of the phone number you are looking for. The computer returns the first name or number containing this letter or number. Simply press N to retrieve the next name or number containing this search element.



The "Review List" option works like the "Quick Search" feature, but here it returns a list of entries based upon the first letter and a common element of the sought after entry. This limits entries displayed to only those that contain the string of characters determined to be the common element and, or, beginning with the first letter entered.

The microcassette can be called into play to Save/Load the entire Phone Directory Data File. With this menu option and the "NEW DIRECTORY" menu option one can establish any number of phone directories with up to 255 entries each. Of course all the necessary functions to conduct global searches, adding and updating entries, and printing functions are all here. This is an enjoyable program. It is not only useful for a variety of applications, but also fun to use. At $25.00 it stands to be a good bargain. ■

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INTEXT

A Word

SPEC SPOT

Product: Intext
Type: Word Processing and Communications
Computer: HX-20 (Versions are now available for the PX-8 and QX-10)
Price: About $150
Ease of Use: Good
Performance: Excellent
Documentation: Brief, but adequate
Summary: Allows more advanced word processing capabilities than SkiWriter, and almost all the features of EpsonLink, all in **ONE** Rom chip.
Manufacturer:
Talbot Computers Ltd.
Talbot Park, Bournmouth,
Dorsett, England

Two of the most popular uses of the HX-20 are word processing and communications. The respective software used for these functions are the ROM based programs SkiWriter and EpsonLink. Unfortunately if you don't have the expansion unit, only one of these chips may be installed in the HX at any one time. Why doesn't someone develop a program or chip allowing for both processes, so you can have your cake and eat it, too? Talbot Computers of England now offers the solution to the above dilemma; INTEXT, a word processor with communications. This program is available in three formats: ROM chip, microcassette and disk (for the TF-20). The ROM version was used for this review. The 28 page user manual illustrates briefly the installation of the chip into the ROM slot in the back of the HX (where SkiWriter is located). An addendum to the manual describes the procedure for putting the chip in the expansion unit, which was the configuration used for this review (Skiwriter was left in the HX). Performing a STATALL reveals 21090 bytes of free RAM (the same as when SkiWriter and EpsonLink are similarly installed).

Before using INTEXT it is necessary to enter BASIC and clear a RAM file area for text storage. The maximum file allowable is 12,500 bytes (compared to 10,000 for SkiWriter), regardless of the presence of an expansion unit. With this accomplished we can go back the main menu and enter INTEXT.

The opening INTEXT menu offers 8 choices:

- N New
- L Load
- E Edit
- I Init
- P Print
- S Save
- C Comms
- MMemory

Entry into the Edit mode is accomplished through the NEW or EDIT options. NEW will clear any document currently in memory, a chance to change your mind is offered to avoid inadvertent deletion. Cursor control is identical to SkiWriter with the exception that the cursor controls are inoperative in INSERT mode. You may also mark blocks for deletion or copying, and search for specified strings of text as with SkiWriter.

Now let's see how much more INTEXT offers. The first and most obvious difference is that there is no screen wordwrap. Input (either text or control codes) fill all 20 positions on each screen line. It is possible, however to define a virtual screen width of up to 80 characters and use 'hard' carriage returns enabling easier reading of text on the screen. The hard carriage returns limit editing on a line by line basis, and prohibit

User definable keys allow automatic generation of commonly used strings of text.

block moves of text. It is also possible to delete text a sentence at a time without the use of markers. Position the cursor at the front of the string to be deleted, hit PF9, and all text following the cursor to the first "end of sentence" marker, then either a ". ? ! or <CR>" will be erased.

User definable keys (PF1 to PF4) allow automatic generation of commonly used strings of text (up to 15 characters). PF10 initiates this feature. User definable tabs make setting up tables an easy maneuver. PF7 and PF8 insert marker codes that allow printing of selected portions of the file. And CTRL C automatically centers a line.

PF5 allows for the use of printer control codes. Depress it and a bold

MERGE-IT

A user friendly program that allows a QX-10 user to merge addresses form Peachtree's mailing list, or any mailing list, with Valdocs letters. The program is completely documented and easy to use.

Features include the ability to merge multiple page letters and to insert as many as 99 fields into the headings and body of the letter. You can now choose both correspondence quality and single sheet mode.

The instructions in the documentation, and prompts on the screen will easily step you through the MERGE-IT program. Even the novice can immediately begin to use the benefits MERGE-IT has to offer.

To receive your program disk which includes everything neccesary to get started; send a check or money-order for $38.50 to:

Terri Slinkman
P.O.Box 111
Plainwell, MI 49080

Processor With Communications

by Bob Hermann

This is not as simple as Valdocs, but is as easy as many more sophisticated word processors.

P appears; any characters that lie between two of these bold P's are treated as printer control codes. So turn on the bold, condensed, italic, or whatever. And if you wear a white hat (i.e. use an Epson printer) the process of using printer control codes is greatly simplified by a set of standard control sequence mnemonics built into INTEXT. If we wanted to print the word Epson in bold, we would depress the PF5 key and the bold P appears. Then type the mnemonic for bold "BY": enter the word Epson, and then turn the bold off with another PF5. There are also control mnemonics for daisy wheel printers. This is not as simple as Valdocs, but as easy as many more sophisticated word processors.

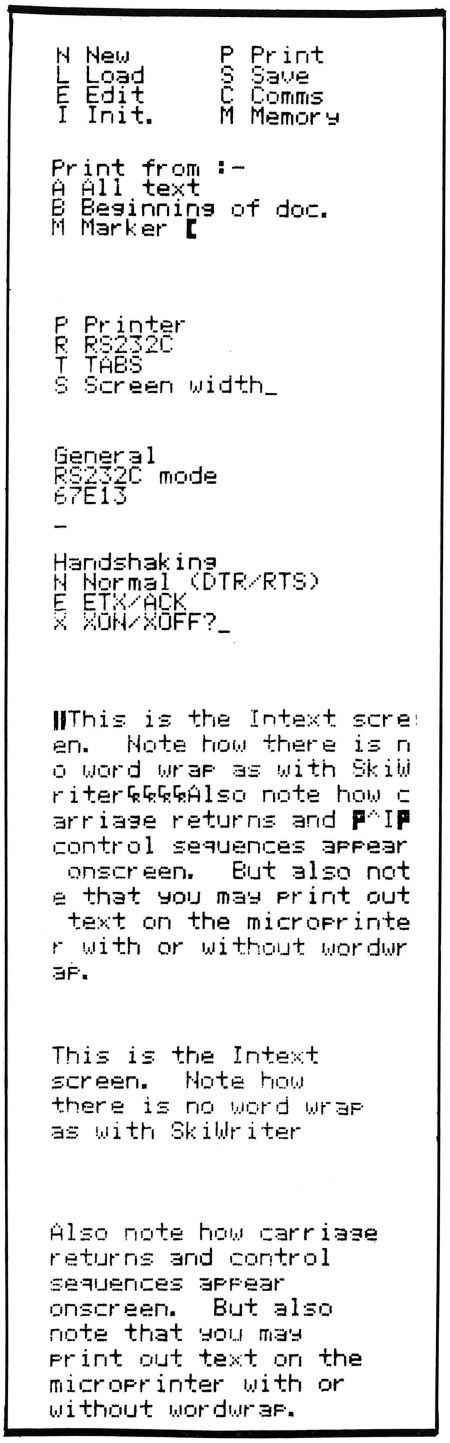
Once you have created a document, you may then save it to microcassette, print it, or send it to another computer. If you are not finished with the document, you can leave it in memory just as you would a SkiWriter file.

Choosing the SAVE option from the main menu reveals two choices: <M> Microcassette and <R> RS232 Interface. Microcassette storage permits specification of the TAPCNT at which you desire to begin the document. This allows for the use of the entire tape, and does not require tapes to be dedicated to the storage of INTEXT files. When a file is saved to tape the microprinter automatically produces a record indicating the filename and the starting and ending tapecounts. If you elect to 'save' the document to the RSC232 device, the file will then be transferred out this port (to another computer) with the option of having the control codes stripped off in the process.

An interesting feature is the ability to determine how much of the memory you have reserved is unused. This is possible by electing the <M> Memory option from the main menu. The length of the current file is displayed, along with the amount of unused space remaining.

Printing may be directed to an external printer or to the microprinter. When using the microprinter you can turn wordwrap on or off, having either a printout of exactly what is displayed on the LCD, or a more readbble form with whole words on a line.

Output to an external printer may be defined by line width, page length, bottom margin, line spacing, and whether or not to stop after the completion of each page.


N New P Print
L Load S Save
E Edit C Comms
I Init. M Memory
Print from :-
A All text
B Beginning of doc.
M Marker
P Printer
R RS232C
T TABS
S Screen width_
General
RS232C mode
67E13
-
Handshaking
N Normal (DTR/RTS)
E ETX/ACK
X XON/XOFF?_
This is the Intext screen. Note how there is no word wrap as with SkiWriter. Also note how carriage returns and control sequences appear onscreen. But also note that you may print out text on the microprinter with or without wordwrap.
This is the Intext screen. Note how there is no word wrap as with SkiWriter
Also note how carriage returns and control sequences appear onscreen. But also note that you may print out text on the microprinter with or without wordwrap.

With the added communications feature, a more useful program for the HX would be hard to imagine.

The communications facilities of INTEXT are limited somewhat by a lack of any type of XMODEM protocol, so that only ASCII files may be transmitted or received. You can save up to 12,500 characters, by toggling retention on and off with the PF9 function key. PF10 sends a file from memory out the RSC232 port. Files may not be sent directly from or received directly to microcassette as is done with EpsonLink. They must reside in memory. Specification of communications parameters is done by the BLPSC parameter.

INTEXT is a superior stand alone word processor.

INTEXT is a far superior stand alone word processor when compared to SkiWriter. The text maneuvering features are not that much more distinguishing, but the output capabilities are well beyond those of SkiWriter. These added characteristics do make it a more difficult to use than SkiWriter. With the added communications feature, a more useful program for the HX would be hard to imagine. ■

TIME ACCOUNTANT

by Bob Hermann

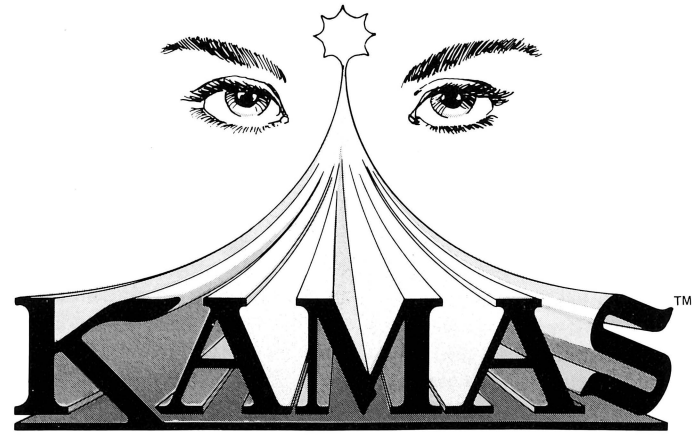
SPEC SPOT

Software name: TimeAcct
Type: Specialized data base
System: Epson HX-20 with microcassette drive and with or without expansion unit
Language: Microsoft basic
Ease of Use: Extremely easy to use
Performance: Good
Summary: A database for job accounting
Price: $50.00
Manufacturer:
Brian Lamasky
984 Hanover Road
Meriden, CT 06450

This specialized data base program is useful to those who have several clients and offer them a variety of different services or activities. The "goof-proof" entry characteristic and menu driven format make it exceptionally easy to use. You can enter up to 100 different projects or clients, and 50 assorted activity services. An HX-20 without the expansion unit has room for 140 different time entries, while one with the expansion memory may hold up to 1090 time entries. Totals by project, projects or for the entire data base may be obtained. Microcassette storage and retrieval of the database is also provided.

The program starts with a credit screen and instructions to press any key to continue. The main menu then appears, offering the options to erase all data; add, change or delete data; report printout; or tape operations. Selection of the add, change, or delete option results in another menu offering a choice between project, activity, or time entries to be generated or edited. Selection of project entry causes a prompt to appear requesting the entry of your project description, which may not exceed six characters. An invalid entry will not be accepted. When a description is entered the computer searches for an existing project and if no match to your entry is found, it displays "New Project Entry" and asks if you want to enter this project. A yes answer will cause the display to briefly indicate that the project is being added to memory; the project description screen is displayed again. A no answer causes the project description screen to come back. To return to the prior submenu you merely hit the 'enter' key at the project description prompt.

When you enter the "Activity" portion of the data input submenu you are requested to enter an activity number. This must be 50 or less, or an "Invalid Entry" message will be displayed and you will be required to enter it again. When a proper number is entered the computer searches for an existing activity of this number. If none is found, the screen displays "New Activity No. XX" and you are requested to enter a description (with a maximum of five characters). After the description is entered you are asked for the default billing rate for this activity in dollars and cents. This must be a number less than $300. Entry of an earlier defined activity causes the screen to display "Existing Activity" with its respective description and the default billing rate. The options to either delete or



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modify this activity are offered before returning to the "Activity No. ?" screen.

Selection of the "Time Entry" option requires the entry of an existing project description. If no match to your entry can be found the screen displays "Invalid Entry" and you are reprompted for a proper entry. Entry of a valid description results in the acknowledgement that it is a valid project, and then requests the entry of a previously defined activity number. A valid entry results in the display of the activity description and the default billing rate. Invalid entries will not be accepted. A different billing rate may entered or the default rate may be used by hitting 'return'. Next you are asked for the date of the activity with the current date displayed on the screen. Again a new date may be entered or you may use the date displayed by entering 'return'. Then you enter the length of the activity in hours and minutes (with a default value of one hour displayed). If you make a time entry which is already in the database you are offered an opportunity to delete it. If this a new entry, you are asked if this entry is to be added to the database, before beginning the time entry process again.

The third option from the main menu is the report printout function, which offers three selections — Project Report, Activity Report, and Time Report. It's probably a good idea to print out the Project and Activity reports to help in making time entries. The Project report printout contains a sequential listing of projects and their corresponding numbers in their order of entry. The Activity printout gives the activity number, its five character description, and the default billing rate. When printing out a Time report, you may specify a sequential portion of the project list or have the entire file printed. The Time report printout indicates the part of the database selected, and a project by project list of the activity number, date and time of activity, the hourly rate, and the amount accumulated for each activity. The total dollar amounts for each type of activity for each project, each project, and the entire printout are included. All printouts are accomplished on the microprinter and are formatted for easy interpretation with a heading indicating which type of report it is and the date and time it was effected.

The fourth item on the main menu allows you to save or retrieve the entire database. One side of a

microcassette is required for each database. The documentation accompanying the program is so thorough it makes a review such as this hard to achieve without plagiarizing. The program is easy to use, and anyone with an application for it would not be making a mistake in its acquisition. This software would be suitable for psychiatrists, lawyers, social workers; any business who charge clients based on time, or time of a session. Another use could be for any individual involved in repairing products, where their bill must be charged in time units. ■

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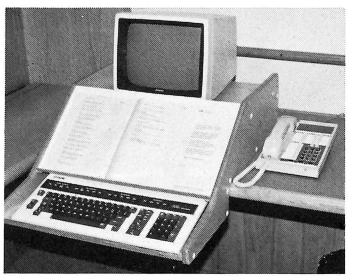

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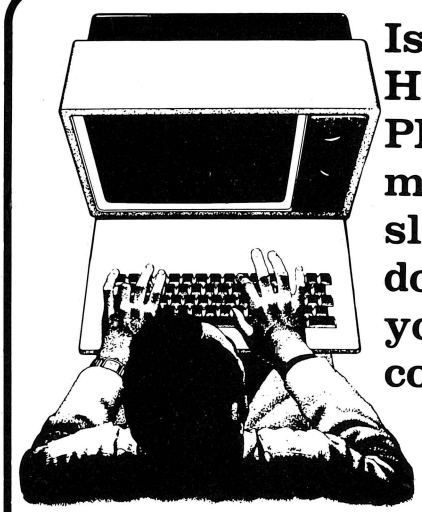

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PORTABLE PROGRAMS

The following PX-8 BASIC program comes from Terrence Ronson's EPSON User's International newsletter. It accomplishes the same thing as the BATTERY program found on the PX-8 floppy system disk. Our thanks to Mr. Ronson.

```
10 'READ INTERNAL BATTERY
20 '
30 MT = PEEK(6)+256*PEEK(7):CLEAR ,MT-50:GOSUB 80
40 CALL ADC(CH%,ADD%)
50 PX=INT(ADD%*570/64)100
60 LOCATE 35,4:PRINT "BATTERY VOLTAGE ";PX
70 IF INKEY<>"" THEN END ELSE 40
80 'SUBROUTINE FOR LOADING MACHINE LANGUAGE CODE
90 CLS
100 MT=PEEK(6) + 256*PEEK(7)-50:AD=MT
110 READ DAT$
120 IF DAT = "END" THEN 300
130 IF DAT$="LB" THEN POKE AD,
    PEEK(1)+&H6F:AD=AD+1:GOTO 110
140 IF DAT$="HB" THEN POKE AD,PEEK(2):AD=AD+1:GOTO 110
150 POKE AD,VAL("&h"+DAT$)
160 AD=AD+1:GOTO 110
170 DATA D5          :'PUSH DE - PUSH ADD% POINTER
180 DATA 4E          :'LD C, (HL) - SET ADC CHANNEL
190 DATA Cd,LB,HB    :'CALL ACDVRT - CALL A/D CONVERTER
200 DATA D1          :'POP DE - POP ADD% POINTER
210 DATA E6,FC       :'AND 0FCH - MASK BITS 0 AND 1
220 DATA 1F,1F       :
230 DATA 12          :'LD (DE),A - ADD%=DATA RETURNED
240 DATA 13          :'INC DE  - ADD% MSB
250 DATA AF          :'XOR A - ZERO A REGISTER
260 DATA 12          :'LD(DE),A - ADD% MSB=0
270 DATA C9          :'RET - RETURN TO BASIC
280 DATA END         :'END
290 '
300 '
310 ADC=MT
320 '
330 CH%=3
340 RETURN
```

Also from Terrence is the following: If you want to set the PX to return to where you were when the machine was turned off, POKE the following while in BASIC.

POKE &H008,0
and turn off with
POKE &HOO8,9

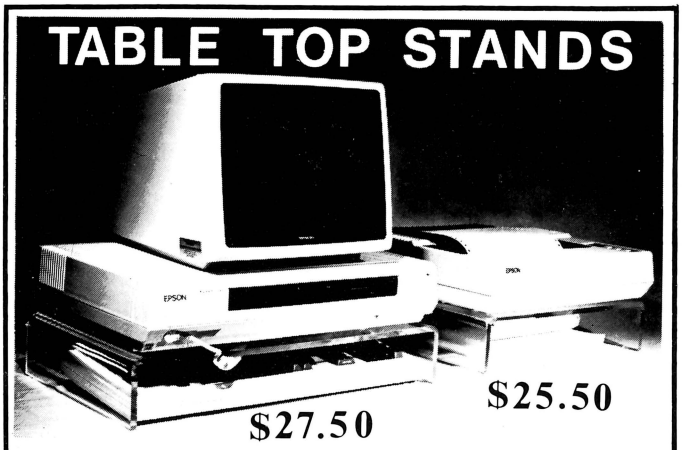
HX-20 Helpful Hint

Send SkiWriter files with EpsonLink by simply entering DOCUMENT.WPI for the filename (with tape wound to corresponding position.)

The following user suggestion comes from Rodney Seiler of Chula Vista, CA

Using the HX-20 with SkiWriter is a real timesaver. If you have a long SkiWriter file, it can take up to seven minutes or more to load. Here is an alternative. The load time is always three and a half minutes, regardless of the length of the file. Page 50 of your SkiWriter manual shows a routine for using an external cassette. I have made some changes to that program. See the attached listing, (before you try to LOAD a document which has been previously SAVEd you must enter SkiWriter.)

```
10 WIDTH 20,16: LOCATE 0,0,0
20 PRINT;PRINT"  FAST CASSETTE"
30 FOR I=1 TO 500:NEXT
40 CLS:LOCATE 4,1,0:PRINT "*WINDING*":WIND
50 CLS: SOUND 9,1:PRINT "1 = SAVE"
60 PRINT "2 = LOAD"
70 INPUT "<1/2>",A
80 IF A= 1 THEN 110
90 IF A= 2 THEN 150
100 GOTO 50
110 GOSUB 180
120 CLS:PRINT:PRINT "    *SAVING";A;"*":SAVEM
"CASO:TEXT.HEX",2624,14320,2624
130 CLS:SOUND 9,1:PRINT :PRINT "   SAVE AGAIN":INPUT"
Yes = Y  ",A$:IF A$= "Y" OR A$= "y" THEN 150
140 EXEC &HFF25
150 GO SUB 180
160 IF A$= "Y" OR A$= "y" THEN 120
170 CLS:PRINT:PRINT" *Loading ";A;"*":LOADM "CASO:
TEXT.HEX": GOTO
 140
 180 CLS CLS: SOUND 9,1: LOCATE 5,1,0:INPUT
"Document # ",A
190 VLS IF A <1 OR A > 5 THEN 180
200 CLS: LOCATE 4,1,0:PRINT "*Winding*"
210 IF A = 1 THEN WIND 50
220 IF A = 2 THEN WIND 1335
230 IF A = 3 THEN WIND 2410
240 IF A = 4 THEN WIND 3500
250 IF A = 5 THEN WIND 4600
260 RETURN
```

These custom stands for the QX-10 and Epson printers are made of heavy gauge 3/8 inch clear aclylic with polished edges and non-skid feet. The QX-10's keyboard slides underneath when not in use to protect it and free desk space for other uses. Inserting disks is easier and screen is raised to a better viewing height. Sturdy printer stand provides front or rear access to paper and requires no extra desk space. Available for 80 or 100 series printers (add $3.00 for larger model). Order by mail or phone and pay by check, M.O. or C.O.D. Same day shipment and 20 day return policy. Please add $3.00 per unit for shipping and $1.65 for COD's. MD residents add 5% sales tax. Dealer inquiries invited.

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Writing Tape Files for SkiWriter

The below listed program will format a tape file correctly for input to a SkiWriter document. Intended only as an instructional program to display the required entries for input which will be accepted by SkiWriter.

```
10 CLS:WIND
15 WIDTH 20,8
20 WIND 50
30 OPEN"O",1,"CASO:DOCUMENT.WP1"
40 PRINT#1,CHR$(5)+CHR$(5)+" SP=1 L=15 R=70 "
   +CHR$(5)+CHR$(6)
45 PRINT"INPUT YOUR LINES:"
46 PRINT"USE ^ ON A NEW LINE"
47 PRINT" TO EXIT."
50 LINE INPUT A$
60 IF A$="^" THEN GOTO 100
70 PRINT#1,A$
75 CLS:PRINT"NEXT LINE:"
80 GOTO 50
100 PRINT#1,CHR$(3)
110 CLOSE
```


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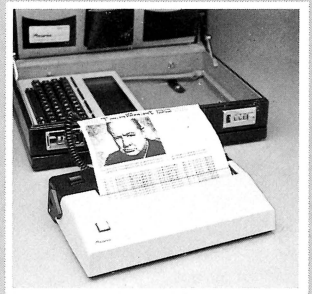

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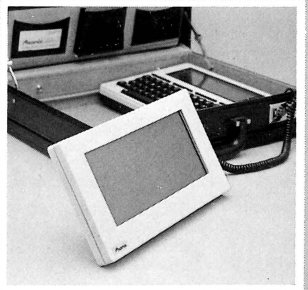

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Questions & Answers

Q I am considering purchasing the 350 public domain software package from Oakwood Publishing, but I have heard rumors that this package has some bugs. Do you know, or can you tell me anything about this package?

Ken Ackerman
Minneapolis, MN

A *The rumor is true. We have had the package for several months now, and there are numerous programs that either do not load, work correctly, or even run. If fact, we have found some programs that weren't even written for the QX-10! However, among the bad programs, there are some good ones that do work. If you like to debug programs and experiment with them, then you should enjoy the package, otherwise, it may be best to avoid them.*

Q When I called your EpsonNet Bulletin Board, the system told me that my access status was LIMITED. I thought that these bulletin boards were for Epson users? If this is so, then why was my access set to limited?

Chuck Freeman
Austin, TX

A *Sorry for the inconvenience, but our RBBS is very active and there are many Epson users who wish to access it. We screen each user who logs onto the system to be sure they are valid Epson users. If we let just anyone use the system, we would have hundreds of local Commodore, Radio Shack and Apple users tying up the system, thus keeping out real Epson users. Please allow about one week for us to validate you before you call the system back.*

Q Recently, I purchased CP/M-80 B2.25. The utility "SETPRINT" that allows you to preset the printer is great. However, I have not yet been able to see the real benefit to this utility since I haven't been able to print a decent document as chosen unless it is on the CP/M disk itself. What I would like to do is print my Valdocs files in compressed and sometimes in expanded form. How can I do this?

Ken Fulkerson
Newcastle, CA

A *We tried to run SETPRINT on TPM-II (Valdocs) and found that this program will only work on the CP/M B2.25. However, there are numerous public domain printer setup utilities that work fine in TPM. Among these is one called EPSONSET.COM, which can be found on many of the RBBS/RTPM boards. Simply place this program on your Valdocs data disk, and run it as an application program from Valdocs BEFORE you print out any Valdocs files. Once this program has been run, you may then proceed to print a Valdocs file, but be sure that you do not tell Valdocs to print your document in correspondence quality. If you do, it will re-set the printer for correspondence quality, thus overiding the printer setup that EPSONSET (or any other printer setup utility) has previously sent to the printer.*

Q Under PeachCalc you can output to disk and create a .PRN file which subsequently can be edited. Can it be edited with Valdocs or only with Peachtext?? If with Valdocs could someone tell me how?

Erika Kuelke
Kinnelon, NJ

A *An ASCII file can be transformed into a Valdocs file if you have the proper utility program. There is a public domain program called TOVAL.COM which will install Valdocs control codes into an ASCII file. Once the file has the proper Valdocs control codes, you then can load it into Valdocs by pressing CTRL-Q while you are in the editor, then press 'R' for "<R>etrieve non-indexed file", then enter the name of the file (which must be stored on your data disk).*

Note: TOVAL.COM is included on this month's 'Disk-of-the-Month'.

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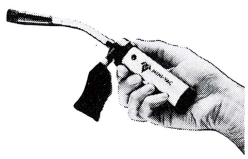

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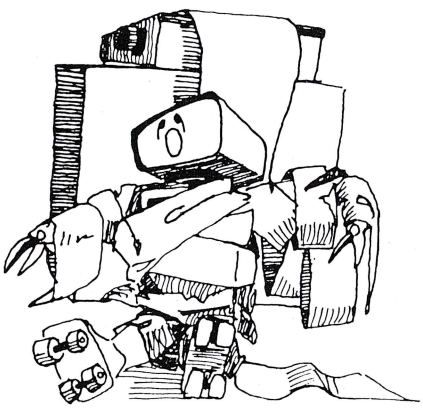

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